

Jennifer Lopez was the first Latin American to earn \$1 million a movie. But then, she tells Sarah Gristwood, she's no soft touch and we've come a long way since Raquel Welch

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Britain's newspaper
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The Guardian

EUROPE

Sports Section

G2 cover story

Media in G2

Purge of rogue doctors

Crisis powers to protect patients

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

EMERGENCY powers to protect patients from health professionals who have been found guilty of incompetence or sexual assault are to be taken by the Government in new laws expected to be announced in tomorrow's Queen's Speech to Parliament.

Health ministers are to invoke rarely used powers to rewrite legislation so that professional bodies can clamp down on misconduct by their members, and ban them from practising again in Britain either in the NHS or in the private sector.

The ministerial decision follows a spate of sex scandals and revelations of incompetence in the medical profession, which have led to rising fears among patients.

Officials have advised ministers that they need the special powers to act quickly and change the rules of professional bodies where they consider it necessary, avoiding the time-consuming process of passing bills through Parliament.

The powers would be used at first to allow a range of professional bodies including those of physiotherapists, occupational psychologists, occupational and speech therapists, and paramedics — to strengthen their rules to clamp down on misconduct among members.

At present most of these



specialists can be suspended or struck off their associations' registers, but they cannot be stopped practising — even if they have sexually assaulted patients or been proved incompetent.

Ministers also want to license new professional groups — such as perfusionists, the technicians who set up heart and lung machines for major operations. A four-month-old baby died recently after one of these machines malfunctioned.

The powers could eventually be used to tighten up the rules of existing regulatory bodies such as the General Medical Council and the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing.

There has been disquiet about the competence and behaviour of surgeons — notably those in paediatrics in Bristol and among gynaecologists — and a row over the appointment of Deborah Parry, the nurse pardoned after being convicted of murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia.

Ms Parry has been rehired by a private nursing home in Surrey.

The new powers, to be taken by inserting a clause into the NHS Modernisation Bill, will prove controversial and have sparked concern at both the GMC and the UKCC.

The Government is using a mechanism known as the Henry VIII clause — named

after the monarch who personified executive autocracy — which is normally only used in dire emergencies such as wartime. It was also invoked when Britain joined the European Union. The clause has rarely been used to rewrite domestic bills.

The existing regulatory bodies have rushed to consult their lawyers to look at grounds for objecting to the plan.

Both the GMC and the UKCC are demanding special safeguards to ensure that ministers do not use the powers to force them to change their regulations against their will.

According to the minutes of this month's General Medical Council meeting, ministers have indicated they are prepared to negotiate over the proposed changes.

The GMC quotes a letter from Alan Milburn, the health minister, promising prior consultation on any measure. The council says ministers intend to include the changes in the forthcoming NHS bill and hope to get them on the statute book by April.

"The advantages of an order-making power may be worth securing but only if the scope of the power can be limited appropriately," the council says.

Ministers are understood to have told the UKCC, now involved in a difficult wrangle over the re-employment of Ms Parry, that there is no chance of implementing the changes in any other way, because the legislative programme is so crowded.

The use of such a controversial procedure looks certain to provoke a row with the Conservatives — with Ann Widdecombe, the shadow health secretary, looking for issues over which to attack the Government.

She is understood to have been briefed on the matter and could accuse ministers of assuming overweening powers and Parliament by going down this path.

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A MOVIE star bride, cascading locks and shimmering chiffon. Even by Titanic standards, the allegedly secret wedding yesterday of Kate Winslet was a breathlessly epic production, writes Stuart Miller.

Celebrities mingled among the 150 guests bussed in for the 50-minute ceremony. A team of security guards kept the media pack at bay, as the 28-year-old actress — resplendent in ankle-length cream gown — left All Saints Church in Reading with her new husband, Jim Threapleton, an assistant film director. Beneath their feet as they passed through a corridor of joyous wellwishers, the final touch: a carpet of rose petals. "It's been a wonderful day," the bride shouted to reporters after the ceremony. "I'm so happy to be married to Jim." Then she wound down the limousine window to beg a packet of cigarettes from one of guests — and the Hollywood gloss finally slipped.

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN GURR

MPs face new expenses rules

Stringent curbs proposed on £47,000 a year office allowance

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

MPS ARE to lose one of their greatest perks as part of Labour's drive to clean up the dodgy and comfortable image of Westminster.

The cherished £47,000 a year parliamentary office allowance is to be subject to stringent new restrictions, which will end the day of MPs supplementing the family income by employing their wives as secretaries.

The Labour Party is calling on the Senior Salaries Review

Board, which oversees MPs' pay and allowances, to make payments from a central system to make it more difficult for members to profit from what the party complains is a "large pot of easy money".

At the moment, MPs can hire whoever they like as researchers and secretaries. MPs decide on the hours their staff work and on their wages, which are paid by the Commons Fees Office out of the £47,000 a year allowance.

Under the new system secretaries and MPs would be paid according to their experience and ability from centrally-organised pay scales.

One Labour source said:

"This will help separate those MPs who genuinely employ their spouse for a good reason from those who just want to top up their household income courtesy of the taxpayer. It will rationalise the system."

Secretaries and researchers at Westminster regularly complain that MPs from all parties pay them appalling wages. One senior Labour MP who pays his researchers — highly qualified graduates — £16,000, is considered generous. Other MPs try to pay a miserly hourly rate because they know that working for an MP adds a lot of kudos to a CV.

One secretary to a Labour MP said: "People would be astonished to know what MPs try to get away with, and that includes Labour MPs who hang on about low wages."

There are MPs who try to pay bright researchers with degrees around £5 an hour. Labour is also proposing that MPs should no longer be allowed to buy their office equipment. Instead they should be given a computer, a fax machine and a telephone answering machine. This will crack down on MPs who buy the most basic equipment and

pocket the rest of the money for themselves.

MPs are entitled to a series of perks in addition to their £48,000 a year salary. If their constituency is outside London, they can claim £12,717 towards costs of a second home and can claim all travel expenses. This includes a mileage rate of just under 50p per mile.

Global warming chills spines with mutant insect invasion



The cockroach... just one of the insect species set to become more numerous in Britain as temperatures rise

THEY are foreign, indestructible and nasty — and they are over here. An invasion of mutant insects has landed in British homes, according to a report published yesterday.

In a plot worthy of science fiction, Britain is facing a bug explosion which already sees 30,000 different species — from cockroaches and clickbeetles to crickets and centipedes — entering the average home.

Attracted to these shores by higher temperatures caused by global warming, many are new arrivals which could never previously have survived the UK climate, the report warned. Some have developed insecticide-resistant strains which makes them immune to existing chemical-based

extermination methods. Peter McEwen, an entomologist from the University of Wales, Cardiff, who carried out the study, said: "This lends weight to science fiction theories, that bugs are a more dominant life form on the planet than humans."

"Already bugs have colonised more areas of the planet than humans. Now we share our homes with more uninvited creatures than ever before, and this number looks set to increase."

The report — carried out by Insect Investigations Ltd, an affiliate of the University of Wales — estimated that there are a million insects in the world for every human being.

But with the warmer climate allowing the army of bugs to move and reproduce at an alarming rate, they are taking up residence in the hundreds of

nooks and crannies offered by the average British home, Dr McEwen said.

Even a slight increase in temperatures can make a huge difference.

Cockroaches, whose faeces can cause food poisoning, are likely to become much more common.

New insects from abroad, previously unable to survive British winters, are expected to establish themselves.

Household insecticides are diluted to prevent them harming humans. But the report warned that even full-strength chemicals may be rendered impotent as some insects breed resistant mutations.

The study will reignite concern about the growing array of new insect species arriving in this country. Experts fear they pose a threat not just to humans, but to indigenous plants

and animals. Scorpions have established themselves across the South-east; in Sheerness, Kent, a colony of 1,000 has been spotted.

The eurowasp, a giant species double the size of its British counterpart, is crossing the Channel in increasing numbers.

Perhaps more worryingly, a colony of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, *Anopheles gambiae*, has been sighted on Anglesey.

"Insects are a scourge on humanity," said Dr McEwen. "They steal our food, suck our blood, bury themselves in our skin, and transmit serious diseases such as malaria and sleeping sickness that destroy lives and wreck economies. It is thought that more deaths have been caused by insects transmitting disease than all of man's wars put together."

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UK news

Actor's death was...
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...boiling water and...
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International

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...have found evidence...
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In *The G2* Europe today: The queen of folk rock, Nanci Griffith, talks about her life on the run

+ Exploring the Geffrye Museum + columnist Michelle Hanson + Media + Radio, Television and European Weather

Jakarta mobs hack seven to death

Rumour sparks church burning fury

John Aglionby in Jakarta

THOUSANDS of Muslims ran amok in the Indonesian capital Jakarta yesterday, hacking at least seven Christians to death and injuring scores more as deep-seated animosities erupted into more than eight hours of street violence.

A week after 18 people were killed in the city in several days of political unrest, north and west Jakarta again reverberated to the sounds of gunfire and tear gas and burning buildings as mobs of Javanese Muslims rampaged through the streets to destroy all Christian symbols.

At least 11 churches were attacked. One was razed to the ground, three badly burnt, three others seriously damaged and the rest had windows smashed and doors beaten in.

The hysterical rioters then turned their fury on Christian neighbourhoods, stoning and burning shops and houses until brought to their senses by the dusk call to prayer.

"We are Islamic gentlemen and they are Christian pigs," one young man said between throwing rocks into a barricaded Christian alley.

Most of the anger was directed towards the community from Ambon, a Christian island 1,700 miles east of Jakarta. It was sparked by rumours that Ambonese who had been gambling on Saturday night burned three Jakarta mosques during pre-dawn prayers. The reality was that a few stones were thrown at one mosque.

The retaliation began with an attack on the nearest Catholic church. Hundreds of people, many claiming to be from a group called the Front to Defend Islam (PFI), first threw stones at the Protestant church and then stormed the building, quickly setting it alight.

Those inside, preparing for a service, fled out the back but three people were caught by the mob and hacked to death. After being pronounced dead, the bodies were dumped upon and beaten with sticks. An ear was cut from one body and paraded triumphantly around the street.

Another crowd interrupted a wedding at the Sacred Heart Catholic church. "We got out as quickly as we could," said the bride, Threeway. "We're still not married but we're safe."

As she, her groom Chandra Gunario, the priest and 80 guests sought refuge in a nearby community centre, the mob smashed stained glass windows and threw bibles, chalices, vestments and a statue of the Virgin Mary on to a bonfire of pews and wooden crosses. Soldiers arrived before they could burn the building.

News of the carnage quickly spread to other churches, which were evacuated. "There were about 30 of



Muslim rioters toss debris on to a car they had set alight during yesterday's ethnic and religious rampage that left at least seven Christians dead, scores injured and 11 churches damaged

us in the building when we heard what was happening," said the Rev Andrias Kambuno, vicar at a church about 1½ miles from the scene of the first assault. "We got everyone out and locked all the doors." Five minutes later it was attacked.

The congregation of another church barricaded the building well enough to prevent the mob entering, so the rioters set fire to buildings on either side in an attempt to burn the church. Two were gutted but the church was saved.

Hundreds of troops and riot police were deployed to the area, firing tear gas and live ammunition to disperse the crowds but they, too, were set upon. In central Jakarta, the military commander, Lt Col Widodo, was slashed several times on the head and an adjutant stabbed in one breast.

Marines managed to reach a dozen Ambonese sheltering in a shopping centre minutes before a PFI mob got to them. Misbahul Amran, the PFI secretary-general, pleaded with the soldiers to allow his followers access to the Ambonese "to give them some Islamic justice". The marines refused and eventually evacuated the Ambonese to safety.

They were, however, unable to prevent several classrooms of the Santa Ursula Catholic primary school being gutted. The mob then headed for the nearby Catholic cathedral, but were blocked by scores of troops.

Two of the other fatalities were men caught by a mob trying to flee their home. They were beaten to death. "Police on duty nearby refused to intervene," one witness said. "They seemed more concerned about preventing shops from being looted than protecting people's lives."

None of the rioters was killed and about 20 people were arrested.

Most of the violence occurred in the city's Chinatown but, as with last week's unrest, the Chinese community was not singled out. "This is more of a religious-ethnic issue," said Solaiman Chandra, who has guarded one of the attacked churches last night. "But there is also an economic aspect. People are fed up with being poor and it is clear they wanted to vent their frustration."

Throw Robinson out, Hague urges PM

DTI inquiry 'makes Paymaster General's position untenable'

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

WILLIAM Hague yesterday called on the Prime Minister to sack Geoffrey Robinson, the multi-millionaire Paymaster General, after it emerged that the Department of Trade and Industry is investigating his business affairs.

The Tory leader claimed that Mr Robinson's position was "completely untenable" because of his determination to shroud his business affairs in secrecy.

"Tony Blair said that the Government had to be pure than pure," Mr Hague told

BBC's Breakfast with Frost. "Does he really think after all this that Geoffrey Robinson is purer than pure? I'm afraid not. It's time for that minister to go."

However, the Tories faced embarrassment themselves yesterday when it emerged that Francis Maude, the shadow chancellor, who has led the assault on Mr Robinson, failed to declare an interest as director of a City investment trust before a Commons debate.

Christopher Leslie, the Labour MP for Shipley, has lodged a complaint with the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee that Mr Maude tabled a Commons motion on Peps without declar-

ing that he was a director of Shared Equity Trust plc, which advises clients on Peps. Mr Maude said he had done nothing wrong because he had declared his interest in the Register of Members' Interests.

The present row flared up after it was reported that the DTI is investigating alleged breaches of company law by companies linked to Mr Robinson between 1988 and 1992, before he became a minister. The inquiries centre on payments which are alleged to have been made to Mr Robinson.

David Heathcoat-Amory, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday that Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary, had told him in a letter in September that his department was investigating whether there had been a breach of the Compa-

nies Act. Mr Heathcoat-Amory wrote last night to Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, asking whether it was right for Mr Mandelson to sit in judgment on another minister.

"Such an investigation [by the DTI] clearly creates an inherent conflict of loyalty and a perceived conflict of interest. In view of this, do you accept that the Paymaster General should stand down from office until the investigation is made public?"

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, who is a close ally of Mr Robinson, rallied to his defence yesterday, saying that Mr Mandelson's letter to the Tories was a "standard reply".

He told BBC's On the Record: "It looked to me like a Conservative MP had got a standard letter of reply from the Department of Trade and

Industry and was waving it around as if it was new evidence.

The latest allegations about Mr Robinson have ensured that his business dealings are again in the spotlight, just days after he was forced to apologise to the Commons over failing to declare a string of directorships to Parliament. The Standards and Privileges Committee demanded that he make the apology after he failed to declare four directorships in the Register of Members' Interests.

Friends of Mr Robinson rallied to his defence yesterday, accusing the Tories of attempting to smear him. Their comments were aimed at the ears of Mr Blair as much as anyone else, because the Prime Minister came close to removing the Paymaster General in the reshuffle after a

series of damaging allegations about his offshore financial affairs. Only the intervention of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who is regarded as Mr Robinson's patron, saved him.

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The results of the research will add to the Government's concerns that pension fund managers are not doing enough to ensure that the pay of directors is closely linked to the performance of their companies.

The study is likely to heighten worries that executives are being encouraged to take a very short-term approach to building their organisations. PIRC says that the performance period used to trigger the bonuses is stuck at three years — a period regarded as the absolute minimum by Sir Ronnie Hampel's recent report into boardroom governance.

The problem for shareholders trying to police the new bonus schemes is that disclosure tends to be sketchy. Companies do not give much indication of the maximum payments their directors stand to gain.

Long-term schemes are also being set up alongside annual bonus systems. This makes assessment complicated for professional shareholders who may have investments in hundreds of companies and be faced with having to vote on incentive schemes at all of them.

Mr Bell said: "Shareholders need clear disclosure of company performance against the targets set in share schemes if they are to be confident that such schemes are really incentivising management."

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Geoffrey Robinson: 'Conflict of loyalty' alleged

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Celebration and fascination as Masur takes the baton

Review

Tim Ashley

LPO/Kurt Masur

Royal Festival Hall, London

THERE was something of a celebratory atmosphere to Kurt Masur's first concert as principal conductor designate of the London Philharmonic. The players had flowers pinned to their lapels and dresses. Serge Dorny, the orchestra's chief executive, made a

speech of welcome, after which Masur himself emerged on to the platform. The two men embraced. The audience cheered and some rose to their feet to give Masur a standing ovation.

Only time will tell how the conductor's partnership with the LPO will develop, but it will be interesting. His reputation is based not only on his musicianship but on his strength of political will. In the late eighties he became the focus of libertarian aspirations in the collapsing GDR. He is passionately committed to a vision of music as

the purveyor of humanitarian ideals, and has spoken out against the precarious relationship between the arts and governments that are supposed to support them.

"All over the world I see a shocking change," he has said. "Politicians aren't committed to the future of the arts."

What was apparent from this concert is that the LPO are keen on him. Flipping themselves into the opening work, Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, with great gusto as Masur tellingly and teasingly prised the piece apart.

The Eighth may be short, but there's nothing slight about it, and Masur emphasises its mixture of quirky humour and emotional density, bringing a quality of obsessive edginess to the development section of the opening movement, and giving the minuet an unusual, dragging weight.

After the interval came a Masur speciality — his own concert version of the incidental music to Grieg's Peer Gynt, the work with which he made his LPO debut 10 years ago.

The sections are linked by two narrators (Simon Cal-

low, very moving as Peer himself, and Rebecca Egan, sinuous and sultry as Anitra). The whole thing is something of a shock after the two familiar suites. The famous Sunrise Interlude depicts dawn over the Sahara rather than Norwegian fjords. In The Hall Of The Mountain King, meanwhile (where Masur was a bit tentative), has a demonic chorus howling such risqué lines as: "Shall I bite off his bottom?"

Some of the unfamiliar material is slight, but there's also great music in the chorus of spirits who

taunt Peer with his own existential futility, and a chilling sequence in which Peer confronts the shadowy figure of the Boyg, his own hallucinatory alter ego. Masur roots the emotional centre of the score, however, in the figure of Solveig, who is at once Peer's beloved and his moral conscience. He surrounds Edith Wiens's exquisite singing and acting with lustrous, plangent strings and tender rocking rhythms.

Even if it may be, but it's never less than fascinating. This review appeared in some editions on Saturday.

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The problem for shareholders trying to police the new bonus schemes is that disclosure tends to be sketchy. Companies do not give much indication of the maximum payments their directors stand to gain.

Long-term schemes are also being set up alongside annual bonus systems. This makes assessment complicated for professional shareholders who may have investments in hundreds of companies and be faced with having to vote on incentive schemes at all of them.

Mr Bell said: "Shareholders need clear disclosure of company performance against the targets set in share schemes if they are to be confident that such schemes are really incentivising management."

Most incentive plans will also reward the directors if companies achieve only median performance against a

comparative group of rival firms. PIRC said there is no attempt by shareholders to demand above median performance.

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Yvonne Carroll (left) and other pupils at Trent Park Equestrian Centre. They say that without the present system, they could not pursue an equestrian career. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Ashdown admits moves to oust him

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

PADDY Ashdown was forced to admit yesterday that there is a campaign among his senior parliamentary colleagues to depose him as leader of the Liberal Democrats.

After reports at the weekend that he could be forced to resign over his links with Tony Blair, Mr Ashdown said: "My advice to those who are overeager to try on the crown is very simple — don't hold your breath."

His comments were an important admission by Mr Ashdown, who had brushed off suggestions there was a campaign to unseat him. He did not name his opponents, but it is widely known at Westminster that Charles Kennedy, the agriculture spokesman, and Simon Hughes, the health spokesman, would dearly love his job. There is even a suggestion that Menzies Campbell, the ultra-loyal foreign affairs spokesman, fancies his chances as party leader if Mr Ashdown stepped down before the next general election.

Mr Ashdown was discussing the House of Lords' defeat of the bill to introduce proportional representation for next year's European election. He told BBC's *On the Record* he was confident the measure would be saved because he expected it to be reintroduced in tomorrow's Queen's Speech.

Labour has made clear that PR could only be introduced in time for the election if the Tories were to co-operate, something William Hague is refusing to countenance. Failure to secure PR by then would be a huge setback for Mr Ashdown, who has hailed the measure as one of the greatest achievements of the joint Cabinet committee on which he sits with Mr Blair.

Pressed on the threat to his leadership if PR were not introduced, Mr Ashdown conjured up memories of his military career. "When I was in the Royal Marines I used to have a young marine. In any tactical situation he used to rush up to me and say: 'But sir, but sir, what happens if a tank comes along?' Hang on, the tank hasn't arrived. And I used to tell [the marine]: 'Calm down. When a tank comes along I'll tell you what to do. For the moment let's just concentrate on the people in front of us who are shooting at us.'"

"Now that's where we are. You can speculate, you can hypothesize about what might and what might not happen."



'My advice to those who are overeager to try on the crown is very simple — don't hold your breath'

Paddy Ashdown

Mr Ashdown also spoke of his fury at the Tories' use of hereditary peers to vote down the European elections bill five times. "What this is to do with is the Conservative leadership, the schoolboy mullahs of the Conservative right who have now taken over the Conservative party," he said.

"They are using the hereditary peers in order to overturn the democratic wishes of the British people for a fair voting system at the European election, for which two-thirds of them voted last year. This is a constitutional impropriety being taken to the level of an outrage."

He rejected the bill because they objected to the Government's proposal for a closed list system which would only allow voters to nominate parties rather than individual candidates.

Liberal Democrats support an open list system, but they voted with the Government because they wanted to save the bill. Simon Hughes spoke out on the issue yesterday when he called on the Government to propose the open list system. He told BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost: "Labour have adopted a position which is better than the old system but it is very centralist... It would certainly be easier if the Government said let's have an open list system."

Stables fear backlash from minimum wage

Training will be at risk, say riding schools and racing industry. Vivek Chaudhary reports

BITAIN'S horse racing stables and riding schools fear that the future of the equestrian industry could be seriously damaged, with hundreds of young workers made redundant, because of government plans to introduce a national minimum wage.

Representatives from the two sectors claim it will be too expensive to employ young workers and that a traditional method of teaching them about the trade, with on-the-job training, could be in jeopardy.

Traditionally, riding schools have combined employing young people with training them to become riding instructors.

In return for a small wage for working at stables, young workers — known as working pupils — are given lectures, practical training and accommodation as they work towards becoming British Horse Society (BHS) riding instructors.

There are about 2,000 riding schools, of which 600 are BHS-approved, offering instructor courses, with around 10 work-

ing pupils at each one. On average, most pupils are aged between 17 and 22 and receive around £50 per week for the 18 months to two years it takes to qualify.

Under government proposals, from next April stable owners will have to pay working pupils and young workers £3 or £3.60 per hour under national minimum wage regulations.

Representatives of riding schools have called on the Government to exempt them from paying the national minimum wage until pupils become qualified instructors.

Janet George, of the BHS, said: "Riding schools are already facing economic difficulties and the national minimum wage will add to these. We are not very optimistic

that stables will employ young people if they have to pay the Government's set rate.

"The problem with working with horses is that you have to have combine practical training with academic lessons."

"The working pupil method has proved very effective because many young people cannot afford to attend full-time instructor courses."

"But strictly speaking they are not full-time workers or students so the Government should have some sort of exemption for people in this situation."

While horse racing stables pay slightly more to young employees than riding schools, they too fear that owners will be unable to meet

the costs of an increased wage bill.

A spokesman for the National Trainers Federation said: "We are looking at the Government's proposals very carefully because they will have a massive impact on horse racing stables."

"Most stables are costly to run and stable owners can only afford to pay out in wages what race horse owners pay them in the first place. For many, it could prove too costly to employ young people and this could affect the future of the industry."

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said: "Companies will either have to pay the national minimum wage or break the law and there will

be no variations or exemptions."

"We asked the Low Pay Commission to set a rate that was sensible, taking into account economic circumstances."

"They felt that this was a rate that companies and organisations will be able to live with."

Keith Beaven, owner of the Trent Park Equestrian Centre in north London, one of the largest in the country, said: "We are all for the national minimum wage. For too long our industry has been tarnished with the reputation that it employs cheap labour."

"But working pupils are the future of our industry, and the Government could be putting them under threat with its plans."

'I'm not rich, so this is the only way to learn the trade'

FOR the past year, Yvonne Carroll's working day has begun at 6.30am when she heads to the stables with a broom and pitchfork. Two hours of mucking out is followed by two hours of riding and the rest of the day is made up of a combination of lectures, riding lessons and more mucking out. writes Vivek Chaudhary.

Ms Carroll, aged 20, is

one of eight working pupils at the Trent Park Equestrian Centre in north London, a British Horse Society-approved riding school. In return for wages of £50 per week, she receives free accommodation at the centre, practical training and lectures. She hopes one day to become a fully-qualified BHS instructor.

"It's hard work, but I really enjoy working with

the horses," she said. "I don't finish until 7pm but it's something that I've always wanted to do. When I'm qualified I want to go abroad to teach horse riding."

Ms Carroll, from Tottenham, north London, claims that if it was not for the working pupil system she would not be able to pursue her dream. "My family don't have a lot of money

and this is the only way I can afford to learn the trade. Most working pupils are in a similar position. It's a very good system because you learn while you work and get some money for it."

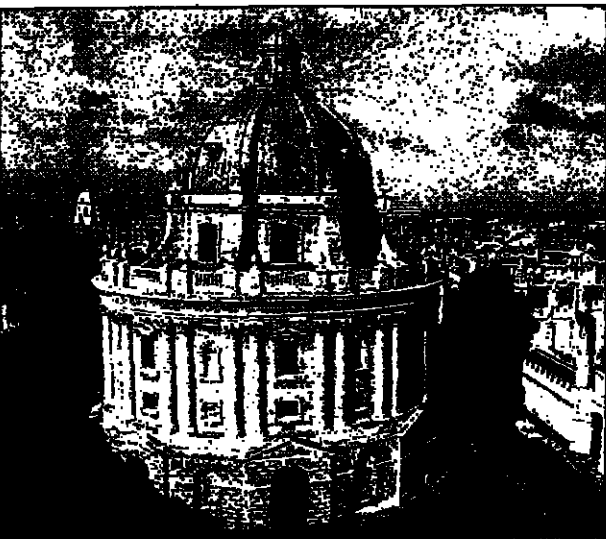
Ms Carroll is studying for her stage three BHS instructor's exam, which she hopes to complete in four months' time. While she may be fully qualified by

the time the Government implements the national minimum wage next April, she says she fears for future generations who, like her, cannot afford to pay for training but have always wanted to work with horses.

She said: "I think the national minimum wage is a good idea, but the Government must take into account different circum-

stances. Riding schools have been using the working pupil system for many years. It's a way of learning. It's not really a proper job."

"But schools will think twice before taking on working pupils because they will have to pay them the same amount of money as a qualified person. It can't be good for the future of our industry."



Oxford: launching into the travel business

Varsities plunk for tipples, trips

Oxbridge fundraising has taken on unexpected new dimensions

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE battle for academic superiority between Oxford and Cambridge reached a new pitch yesterday when their fundraisers began a contest to extract the most money from alumni.

From Cambridge came an announcement that the university was launching a range of wines, carefully selected by a volunteer panel of university tasters.

The own label vintages

were described as "the latest addition to the university's officially-licensed product range, which serves the dual purpose of alumni relations and fund-raising".

But as Cambridge went into the wine merchant business, Oxford hit back with a travel agency for its graduates. A leaflet inserted in the university's official gazette offered "a much-expanded travel programme for 1999" with opportunities for graduates "to enjoy travel and recreational holidays in the company of other alumni".

It promised: "To ensure an authentic Dark Blue touch, groups will usually be accompanied by an Oxonian lecturer or guide, and meetings will be arranged wherever possible... In all cases, travel companies involved give the university 10 per cent of the holiday price paid by the alumni."

The Cambridge wines will be sold under the brand name of Masters at prices ranging from £4.99 a bottle. The university said it was collaborating with the Grand Marque wine company and would receive a percentage on every bottle sold.

"We think it's an imaginative way to help us fund Cambridge's future," said Richard

Stubbs, a member of the tasting panel from Downing College and the university computing service. The income would help top-priority development projects.

Meanwhile, the Oxford university travel business was offering seven nights skiing from the Chalet Perrier at Corcheval for about £590. Higher up the price range came a 17-day tour of Imperial China, including a Yangtze cruise, for about £2,800; or a 10-day catamaran cruise off the Great Barrier Reef for up to £3,500.

Pressure on the fundraisers has increased since the Government warned Oxbridge of cuts in the college fees to support the tutorial system.



Cambridge: raising their glasses to a profitable initiative



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Queen's Speech: Health service at core as car insurance is targeted for accident treatment cash and ministers seek removal of bad staff

Drivers to be tapped for NHS funds

Nicholas Watt and Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government was accused yesterday of planning an unfair tax after it emerged that motorists are to be forced to contribute millions of pounds towards the hospital treatment of road accident victims.

In a late addition to the Queen's Speech tomorrow, the Government will introduce legislation which makes insurance companies pay almost £3,000 for every road accident victim. The bill, which will lead to an increase of between £5 and £10 in insurance premiums, will raise up to £160 million a year for the National Health Service.

Michael Ancram, the Conservative Party chairman, yesterday criticised the Government plan. "What I have heard suggests another tax on motorists," he told Sky television. "It will be regarded as another attack on rural interests at a time when the rural economy is in great trouble."

Government sources have accused the Tories of hypocrisy because the measure will tighten a 1988 law. The legislation will turn the Compensation Recovery Unit at the Department of Social Security into a debt collector on behalf of all NHS trusts.

The health service will feature strongly in this year's Queen's Speech, which is being promoted by ministers as an important step in the modernisation of Britain. Ministers believe they will

show that the health service is one of the Government's priorities. The NHS Modernisation Bill will abolish GP fundholding and replace it with primary care groups.

The centrepiece of the Queen's Speech will be the bill to abolish the voting and sitting rights of Britain's 750 hereditary peers. The Tories have made clear that they will oppose the move until the Government publishes credible options for Lords reform after the hereditaries have been removed.

Tony Blair was warned last night that he faces "guerilla

'20 determined peers could hold up business for a very long time'

warfare" in the House of Lords next year because hereditary peers will vent their anger by attempting to block the Government's legislative programme, Lord Richard, the former leader of the Lords, told BBC Radio 4's The Westminster Hour. "The possibilities for guerilla warfare and attrition in the House of Lords are much greater than in the House of Commons. Even if you had a group of, say, 20 hereditary peers determined to go down in flames, they could hold up business for a very long time."

Labour received another warning over its Fairness at Work Bill. Unions said they might withhold funds for next

year's election campaigns in Scotland and Wales because they are concerned that the Government is going to water down its commitment to union recognition.

The bill will grant recognition if 40 per cent of the workforce votes in favour, with automatic recognition if 50 per cent of workers are already members. Unions are concerned that the Government has given in to pressure from the Confederation of British Industry, which wants the 50 per cent rule to apply only to workers who have been members of a trade union for six months or more.

The other bills expected in the Queen's Speech include an Access to Justice Bill to give solicitors wider access to the higher courts and introduce wide-ranging reform of the legal aid system; and a bill to change benefits for the long-term sick and disabled by introducing new tests for incapacity benefit claimants.

Some measures will be left out of the Queen's Speech. There will be no Freedom of Information Bill, although there will be a draft bill to show that the Government is serious about fulfilling its manifesto commitment.

The Association of First Division Civil Servants will today lead the protests against the delays in introducing freedom of information. The union has signed a joint letter to Tony Blair warning that the delay "will allow such extraordinary secrecy to continue". The letter has also been signed by Alan Rusbridger, editor of the Guardian.



Jim Adkins... struck off from the register of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists but still working and running a physiotherapy centre

Police question two men after £100,000 kidnap bid ends

David Ward

POLICE on Merseyside were last night questioning two men after the kidnapping of a businessman whose family had had demands for a £100,000 ransom to secure his release.

Charles Seiga, a former restaurateur from Liverpool, was freed on Saturday evening after being scalded with boiling water, beaten and threatened with a gun during an ordeal which lasted almost 36 hours. A news blackout was imposed as Mr Seiga, aged 58, made increasingly frantic phone calls to his brother telling him his life was in danger.

Armed police arrested two men, aged 28 and 29, in an operation codenamed Corridor, at Wavertree, Liverpool. A handgun and a sawn-off shotgun were found.

Last month, Mr Seiga was cleared of murdering 35-year-old George Bromley, a security consultant involved in running teams of doormen for Liverpool nightclubs. As Mr Bromley sat eating a meal in Mr Seiga's home, he was shot by a gunman who entered through patio doors.

Detectives were exploring links between the abduction and the murder trial as a "positive line of inquiry".

Mr Seiga was abducted early on Friday by armed men as he left his luxury home in the West Derby area of the city to buy a newspaper. At 5pm on Saturday, he arrived by taxi at the home of his brother Joe, in the Turflock district, after £17,000 had been handed over in two tranches. None of the money has yet been recovered.

Mr Seiga had been scalded on his arms, buttocks and the back of his thighs. His face was cut and bruised and his wrists were injured where they had been bound. He was taken to hospital for treatment and later interviewed by police.

Stephen Love, superintendent at Merseyside police, said: "He took quite a beating. He has been through an ordeal."

Mr Seiga and his 22-year-old daughter Britt, a law student, with whom he was going shopping when he was kidnapped, were taken to a secret address on Merseyside where they were interviewed by detectives.

On Friday, Mr Seiga had left home at 8am, saying he would return in half an hour. Nothing was heard from him until 7.40pm when he telephoned his brother to say he was in danger of his life. He said he had had boiling water poured on his face and that the price of his release would be £100,000.

Supt Love said Mr Seiga made up to 20 telephone calls to his brother after the kidnapping but officers had problems tracing the mobile phone calls.

Joe Seiga handed over £10,000 in cash, raised from friends and relatives, to a man in a street near Wavertree police station. Mr Seiga later rang his brother saying the first cash was only a downpayment and more money was needed for his release.

The kidnappers are believed to have suggested that "gear" (drugs) could be used in lieu of some money. Two deadlines — 10am and noon on Saturday — passed without further communication. But at 3pm, Mr Seiga rang to explain how the next ransom payment should be made. He was released two hours later.

Merseyside police were playing down the possibility that the kidnapping could be part of a dispute over drugs. Mike Baxter, assistant chief constable, said: "On Merseyside, drugs wars are more myth than reality. In the last two years the number of firearms incidents has fallen. I would reassure Merseyside there's no threat to the general public."



Charles Seiga and his daughter Britt after he was acquitted of the murder

Regulators unable to bar incompetents and abusers from health practice

A spate of cases in which patients have suffered misuse has highlighted the need for emergency powers to supplement the authority of professional watchdogs

David Hencke and Sarah Bossey

MINISTERS believe the public is not adequately protected from incompetent health practitioners who put lives at risk or sexually assault patients during treatment.

Since the general election a spate of cases has caused alarm at the Department of Health. These are the main examples worrying ministers which will lead to emergency powers being taken under the Government's NHS Modernisation Bill. In each case the law is powerless to stop them practising in the United Kingdom.

JIM ADKINS, a physiotherapist who runs the Berkshire Physiotherapy Centre in Epsom, Surrey, was struck off the register of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists and in March 1998 from the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine. Found guilty by both bodies of having inappropriate relationships with his patients and a fellow professional after complaints from four women.

Woman A complained he performed a massage on her during which he removed her lower clothing without proper explanation or necessity causing her embarrassment and distress. Further complaint of indecent assault.

Woman B, a fellow health professional, said he pursued her and had an improper sexual relationship.

Woman C said he abused his professional position in pursuing an emotional and sexual relationship while she was under his care.

Woman D said he indecently assaulted her.

He told Therapy Weekly after the ruling: "I refute all charges against me and deny that I should be removed from the CPSM. I admit I was morally wrong in having an affair... I'm working at the moment, but I don't know if I'll continue to treat patients."

The law: "Any state-registered physiotherapist found guilty of infamous conduct of a professional kind has simply to cease to use the words 'state registered' and, outside the NHS and local authority services, may carry on offering their services to the public with no sanctions should they further transgress," according to Mike Hall, CPSM registrar.

MOHAMMED MAJEED, a perfusionist (a technician who sets up heart and lung machines) at Guy's hospital, London. A coroner's court was told this month of the "violent and shocking" accidental death of

four-month-old Hannah Shepherd during open heart surgery.

The court heard that Mr Majeed was asked to put a haemofilter into the circuit keeping Hannah alive. The filter was to remove potassium from her blood, which was threatening to cause kidney failure.

Mr Majeed, who qualified in South Africa, was not accredited in the UK and therefore had trainee status and should have been supervised.

Some hours later, one of the tubes in the circuit burst at a joint; a nursing sister jammed it back together, but then saw



Deborah Parry: convicted of murder but still nursing

a fine spray of blood coming from elsewhere in the tube. All the baby's blood spurted out. Hannah died instantly.

An inquiry is under way at Guy's hospital, which ended Mr Majeed's contract before the inquest. Two senior perfusionists, Geoffrey Steers and Nigel Gooby, have been suspended.

The law: Perfusionists, a group of around 200 technicians who are essential to open heart and lung surgery, are unregulated so can practise anywhere.

The heart surgeon Sir Magdi Yacoub has set up a voluntary society but the law needs to be changed to allow statutory regulation.

PETER SLADE, formerly professor of clinical psychology at the University of Liverpool, admitted in September 1998 behaving "inappropriately, and in a sexual manner with several patients, and to having a personal sexual relationship with one young woman".

He had already been suspended by the British Psychological Society for two years after he was found guilty of professional misconduct in 1996.

A disciplinary board reported that Dr Slade had "voluntarily withdrawn his name from the register of chartered psychologists", and had promised not to engage in clinical practice again or repeat his offending behaviour. It found him guilty of professional misconduct but he will keep his BPS membership and fellowship.

He told the BPS disciplinary board that he had been practising as a psychologist while an alcoholic and while his professional judgment and abilities were seriously impaired.

The law: Clinical psychologists are not required to register to practise, so cannot be "struck off". Dr Slade could return to clinical practice, either privately or in the NHS.

DEBORAH PARRY, the British nurse convicted of the murder of 55-year-old Yvonne Gilford in Dharan hospital, Saudi Arabia, and freed after a royal pardon.

Now practising at Holy Cross hospital in Haslemere, Surrey, where she was employed 16 years ago.

Cleared by the nursing governing body, the UK Central Council, which said it had been unable to come up with any "hard evidence" to remove her from the official register.

Mandy Lavlin, director of the UKCC's conduct committee, added: "Our current legal advice is that we're not going to be able to get this case to a final hearing, she will not be removed from the register and in the absence of any other evidence the case will effectively be closed."

Ms Parry maintains her innocence: "I didn't kill Yvonne Gilford. I don't know how many times I have to tell people that — I've killed no one, I've done nothing wrong."

The law: According to the UKCC, without formal documents from the Saudi authorities it cannot even look into the complaint. Ministers expressing concern include the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and Health Secretary.

Minister gets bullish over 'certainty' that EU is set to lift ban on British beef

Nicholas Watt

Political Correspondent

NICK Brown, the Agriculture Minister, declared yesterday that he was certain that the European Union would lift its ban on British beef today.

In one of his most confident assessments, he said he had received a "good hearing" in private from his European counterparts who will vote on removing the export ban today.

"Our partners in Europe have played fair with us and I am certain — as certain as I can be before the meeting — that we will get the decision we want," he told GMTV. "This isn't a political bargain-

ing process. We have done what we were asked to do and can justify the United Kingdom's position on the basis of science and the technical implementation."

Mr Brown said he could "perfectly confidently" present Britain's case for lifting the ban which has cost £4 billion since it was introduced in March 1996 as part of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) measures.

As soon as the ban is lifted, Britain will introduce a series of stringent measures to guarantee that beef is free of BSE when exported.

Germany will lead opposition to lifting the ban but eight EU governments are poised to vote to restore the UK beef export trade — the

narrowest majority of the 15 member states, but enough to bring the worst crisis in EU agriculture to an end.

The main conditions will stipulate that only de-boned beef and beef products will be exported; animals for export must have been born after August 1, 1996, when potentially BSE-contaminated feed was removed from farms and feed mills; cows must be between six and 30 months old at the time of slaughter; and the animals must have been clearly identifiable throughout their lives.

Farmers' leaders struck a cautious note yesterday, warning that it would take a long time to recover markets. A spokeswoman for the National Farmers Union said:

"After almost three years, we are well aware that people have had to find their supplies of beef from elsewhere. The job ahead is to get them to start buying British beef again."

Phil Saunders, of the Meat and Livestock Commission, said: "Throughout the last three years we have constantly kept in touch with our export markets across Europe. The moment the ban is lifted, a leaflet, which is available in each major European language, will be going out to those people as we begin looking forward to seeing the first export of British beef moving away from these shores."

Mr Brown acknowledged the problems ahead, saying: "I think it's going to be a long haul." He told BBC 1's On The Record that the self-imposed ban on beef-on-the-bone would stay in force until government experts in the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee recommended its lifting. But he said: "I hope to be able to lift the domestic ban on beef-on-the-bone as soon as it is reasonable. If it is possible for me to do so, we can explain to the public clearly what the risks are."

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, yesterday added his weight to the campaign to get the beef ban lifted. He put Britain's case to his German counterpart, Oskar Lafontaine, and urged him to reverse German opposition.

He said: "I hope to be able to lift the domestic ban on beef-on-the-bone as soon as it is reasonable. If it is possible for me to do so, we can explain to the public clearly what the risks are."

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A Christmas Message

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Fans demand studio hires 'true spirit' of the Phantom

Dan Glaister on a campaign to restore Michael Crawford to 'his' part on film

TO MANY, he is remembered as Frank, the bumbling incompetent in *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*. But to millions, Michael Crawford is revered as the Phantom, the star and true spirit of the eponymous hero of the stage musical *Phantom of the Opera*.

But the fans' dreams of seeing Crawford reprise his role in the film of Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber's musical have been stymied by the film's producers. Instead of Crawford, Warner Brothers has cast the eminently bankable Spanish actor Antonio Banderas as the Phantom.

But the fans are determined not to let the studio have its way. This week the Michael Crawford Phantom Movie Campaign took out a full page advertisement in the film industry paper *Variety*.

"The role is the man," said the advert. "The financial success of any work of art depends on the fans who pay to see it... We will not pay to see any other actor portray the Phantom on film."

The advert explains that 40 million people saw the original Phantom on stage, and 15 million have purchased the original cast recording. "Yul Brynner immortalised *The King and I*. Rex Harrison lives on through *Rex Harrison*. So must Crawford be the Phantom for future generations. Cast Michael Crawford as the Phantom. It makes artistic sense, it makes financial sense. He is the 'name draw' in this role. In the end it is the public you must impress. We are the ones with the money."

The group behind the advert stresses that it has no links either with Crawford or his official fan club. With a membership of 300 "active organisers and a steering committee of 12", the group operates from Los Angeles.

The pro-Crawford protests started after it emerged that John Travolta — not known for his vocal prowess — was being courted for the part.



Antonio Banderas: signed to star in film of the musical

But in August, Banderas's agent said the Spanish actor had signed to play the part.

The campaign plans to use the power of the consumer to persuade the studio to change its mind. The campaign, says its mission statement, "is an organised group of consumers who want to make a specific purchase: movie tickets to a film, version of Lloyd-Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* starring Michael Crawford... If Michael Crawford is not cast as the Phantom... we will take part in a boycott of this movie and of the Really Useful Group [Lloyd-Webber's company]... And, as the rest of America seems to be doing lately, we will think long and hard about seeing any Warner Bros movies for the foreseeable future. This boycott will include attempts to influence our family, friends, co-workers and other personal contacts."

While the fans seem unlikely to change the studio's mind, they might have more luck with Lloyd-Webber. A sequel — the producers prefer to call it a "continuation" — is planned for next year, telling the story of the Phantom and Christine after the first show ends. Frederick Forsyth, the novelist, is understood to be writing the storyline in consultation with Lloyd-Webber.

© The Michael Crawford Phantom Movie Campaign's website is at: <http://www.av.qnet.com/3m7/phantom.htm>



Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman on stage in *The Phantom of the Opera*

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD MILDENHALL

Lives of many parts

Michael Crawford, 56

□ **Background:** Son of a second world war fighter pilot who died before he was born. Started singing at 12, first as a child soprano for Benjamin Britten. By 14 was starring in children's films.

□ **Best roles:** In the 1960s had a part in *Helio Dolly*. His role as Frank Spencer in *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em* brought him enduring notoriety in the 1970s. Became the Phantom in 1985.

which won him international acclaim, five theatre awards, an OBE and 2 million album sales. Given standing ovations on Broadway.

□ **Personal life:** A multi-millionaire, he insists he won't be leaving his money to his three daughters or grandchildren, but will donate it to the Sick Children's Trust. Single since his marriage ended in the 1970s. □ **Quotes:** "Phantom came from deep inside. I felt I was giving life to a soul."

Antonio Banderas, 38

□ **Background:** Born in Cuba, the son of a policeman and a school teacher. Grew up on the southern coast of Spain. Began performing at 14 with local drama group. Was discovered, aged 18, by avant-garde director Pedro Almodovar. Ten years later, made the leap from European actor to American movie star. Knew so little English he had to enrol in a total-immersion English course and to begin with

he had to use phonetically worded scripts.

□ **Best roles:** Al Pacino's successor in *The Godfather Part III*. Also in *Bad With Madonna*, *Philadelphia*, *Interview With the Vampire*, *Evita*, and *Zorro*. □ **Private life:** Turned down Madonna's advances for Ana Leza Banderas, only to divorce her in 1996 for Melanie Griffiths. Has a two-year-old, Stella. □ **Quotes:** "The hottest thing in Hollywood right now is me and a pig called Babe."

Poverty trap grips Asian families

Burhan Wazir

PAKISTANI and Bangladeshi families in Britain are almost four times as likely to be living in poverty as white households, according to research published today.

An analysis of the incomes of 2,500 ethnic minority households, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shows that high unemployment among Pakistani and Bangladeshi men coupled with low pay and large family sizes contribute to 60 per cent of them falling below the poverty line. The equivalent among white households is 16 per cent.

Professor Richard Benthall, of Essex University, says in his report: "The extent of poverty that this study has revealed among people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin is striking and demands greater attention from policy makers. Lack of appropriate education and training provides part of the explanation and could be part of the solution to poverty in this community."

"Account also needs to be taken of Islamic traditions in relation to female employment and large family sizes. Purely economic factors are also important — such as the

collapse of the textile industry in which so many Pakistanis were employed."

The analysis showed that not all minority groups had low incomes. "On some measures, Indians and Chinese are in a very similar position to the white population. So the poverty of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis cannot be explained solely by the fact that they are an ethnic minority."

The survey showed that the average earnings of Indian and Chinese workers were slightly higher than the average of white workers. But their rates of poverty — 22 per cent and 28 per cent respectively — were higher.

Wages for men were below the level of their white counterparts and rates of lone parenthood were relatively high. But the proportion of households with less than half the national average income was only slightly higher than for whites.

Unemployment stands at 39 per cent for Pakistani and Bangladeshi men and 15 per cent for their female counterparts. "Men in these groups have very poor employment prospects. Very few women have a paid job. The earnings of those men and women who do work are far lower than those of white people, or of any other ethnic group," the study says.

Proposals to reverse 'spiral of decline' in arts education

John Carvel
Education Editor

ARTS education is going into a spiral of decline as schools focus intensively on core academic subjects affecting test results, and employ fewer teachers with qualifications in art, music, dance or drama, the Government warned yesterday.

The Royal Society for Arts said in a report written for it by Rick Rogers that universities were abandoning courses allowing student teachers to specialise in arts, and were cutting back on time for the arts in teacher-training.

These actions were contributing to a sharp drop in the recruitment of arts teachers this year, while for existing teachers, only 1 per cent of in-service training places are allocated to arts courses.

The report notes that "the Office for Standards in Education has ceased to report on the non-core subjects in its inspections of primary schools."

The outcome has been a too-narrow focus on the teaching of primary children, which is "squeezing the arts out of the curriculum."

The society has proposed an arts audit by schools to identify what is being provided in the curriculum and after hours. It said the Teacher Training Agency should also aim for every primary school to have a specialist arts teacher.

Summer schools should also forge relationships with artists, and win discounts at performances, museums and galleries through a teachers' Artcard, the report said.

The Disappearing Arts? Royal Society for Arts, £7.50



Prince digs in to save the past of Greece

Helena Smith
in Athens

IT IS one of the last relics of empire, which generations of British explorers have used to help them uncover the treasures of ancient civilisations. But a £10 million cash shortfall has seen the British Archaeological School in Athens fall into disrepair, and has led to its management launching a drive to raise its profile.

Yesterday Prince Charles, who became the 12-year-old school's patron this year, lent his weight to the campaign when he arrived in Greece for a three-day stay in the Hellenic Republic.

He hopes that his tour of the school will rekindle interest in the institution.

Britain was the first nation granted a permit to excavate Greece's past, and it scored a notable success when the school's Sir John Evans discovered the Minos Palace at

Knossos in 1901. The prince, who read archaeology at Cambridge before switching to history, is determined to take an active role in promoting the school. He reportedly told aides he might send Prince William on an excavation in Greece.

"The prince has made it known that he is going to be a very active patron and we are absolutely thrilled," said David Blackman, the school's director.

"By the year 2004 we hope to have raised £10 million towards renovating buildings, increasing our field work and funding bursaries for Greek and British scholars."

At present the school is run on a shoestring budget — with more than a fifth of its funding from private bequests.

"I'm afraid we don't even have the means to restore our two Edward Lear watercolours," said Dr Blackman. "Archaeology is no longer



British archaeologists of yore were to the fore at such sites as the Palace of King Minos and Knossos in Crete (top left)

PHOTOGRAPHS: ROBERT HARDING

the cheap affair it was when Evans was excavating the Minos Palace in the early 1900s."

Since the foundation of the modern Greek state in 1830, the country has been viewed as a battleground for archaeologists bent on unravelling its history.

The United Kingdom's pre-eminence has been eroded in the past 50 years to such an extent that three neo-classical buildings of the British Archaeological School are now located in the gardens of a newer American institution.

With academic research now at a premium, the race to both excavate and study the country that gave birth to Western civilisation has been hotting up.

This month an unprecedented 17 foreign archaeological schools — including Irish, Swedish and even Georgian — applied for permits to dig at prime sites.

Part of the problem for the British school is that many rival foreign institutes such as the French and German, are flourishing — nourished by a seemingly unending flow of state funds.

That has raised fears that another European country might wrest control from Britain of some of the best Greek sites such as Knossos, Argos and Sparta.

With the resurgence of interest in Greek antiquity, a failure to keep up with advances in archaeology could damage the standing of the British school's internationally renowned research. "We do hope Prince Charles can do something for the British school," said Roland Etienne, the director of the French school.

"It's very important for them to have money to develop... we French are already expanding our operations in the Balkans."



The financially challenged British Archaeological School in Athens PHOTOGRAPH: LEONIS PITHANAKIS

Possible deal offer held out to Shayler

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE first sign that the Government will be prepared to hold out an olive branch to the former MI5 agent David Shayler emerged yesterday when it indicated there was a possibility of a deal involving dropping the threat of an Official Secrets Act prosecution.

After a Paris court last week dismissed Britain's request for Mr Shayler's extradition, John Wadham, his lawyer and the director of Liberty, the civil rights group, said it was time to come to a "common sense" agreement.

A Home Office spokeswoman said yesterday the Government was "not currently in discussion" with Mr Wadham.

But she dismissed reports that it was planning a worldwide injunction against Mr Shayler or suing him for disclosing information about MI5.

Mr Shayler told a Sunday newspaper yesterday: "I would much rather negotiate a settlement with the British authorities." He has made no secret of his wish to return to Britain where he wants to give evidence to the parliamentary intelligence and security committee.

Before Mr Shayler was arrested in Paris in August, Mr Wadham had long discussions with government lawyers about the case, which took place alongside intense debate in Whitehall and MI5 about how to handle it.

Mr Shayler's arrest and the attempt to have him extradited from France was a victory for the hawks.

But official British statements to the French court showed there was as much evidence of alleged breach of the Official Secrets Act during the previous negotiations as there was at the time of Mr Shayler's arrest.

The Paris court rejected the extradition request on the grounds that it was politically motivated and that Mr Shayler's disclosures were also political in nature.

Chiapas rebels walk out on mediators as ruling party senators expose state's poverty. **Michael McCaughan** in San Cristóbal reports

Zapatistas decry 'war of extermination'

A DOZEN military roadblocks temporarily faded into the jungle undergrowth of Chiapas state this weekend to allow 28 Zapatista rebels — who received a last-minute escort by the International Red Cross — to attend meetings in San Cristóbal de las Casas with the Cocopa, a congressional commission set up to promote dialogue between rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army and the Mexican government.

The Zapatistas also met 2,000 representatives of popular organisations across Mexico to plan their own unofficial national referendum early next year aimed at putting pressure on the government to ratify the San Andrés peace accord.

The accord on indigenous culture and rights was signed by officials in February 1996 but later rejected by President Ernesto Zedillo.

The rebels have named 5,000 militia members — equal numbers of men and women — to canvass support for the accord in every voting district in Mexico.

In the first meeting in two years between Cocopa and Zapatista representatives, rebel delegates walked out after only 40 minutes, accusing the 16 legislators of a "racist" and "humiliating" attitude and of failing to provide basic services for their three-day stay in San Cristóbal.

The Cocopa angrily rejected the accusations, describing the Zapatistas' attitude as "chummy and unhelpful".

summing direct talks with the government, suspended since September 1996.

The inauguration of the rebel meeting coincided with Mexico's Revolution Day, a national holiday on which insurgent heroes such as Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa are recalled with festive pomp and street parades.

Hundreds of schoolchildren marched through San Cristóbal, in Chiapas state, carrying banners and mock rifles, and shouting Zapata's war cry, "Land and Freedom". Just yards from the town's convention centre where neo-Zapatistas had planned a second revolution, staging their armed rebellion in January 1994.

In an uncompromising opening speech, the rebels' Comandante David accused the government and armed forces of pursuing a "war of extermination" against the indigenous people, inflicting "hunger, prison, death and forgetting".

The interior minister, Francisco Labastida, dismissed the rebel gathering as a farce, telling reporters the rebels had no intention of coming to an agreement with the government. Mr Labastida accused the Zapatistas of buying time to influence the outcome of the presidential elections in 2000.

"The government has demonstrated time and again its willingness to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict," he said.

In his first interview this year, the rebel leader, Subcomandante Marcos, said: "It's the government that has been playing for time. The government doesn't want peace be-



Refugees attend a clinic in Polho, Chiapas, named after the Zapatistas' forebear, fêted on Revolution Day last week

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERTO BRANCOLINI

cause it is not prepared to pay the price of peace, so they try out different strategies, talking one minute, ordering a military strike the next."

The rebels received an un-

expected political boost when Pablo Mendiguchén, a Cocopa member and senator of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), publicly criticised government policy

in Chiapas and urged the government to implement the San Andrés peace accord. He was denounced as a traitor by party colleagues in Chiapas state, but efforts to impeach

him have failed. Last week, the Zapatistas found further allies in the ruling party when 16 PRI senators revealed the results of an investigation into living condi-

tions in Chiapas. The so-called Galileo group of senators found that 90 per cent of Chiapans live in poverty and 75 per cent in "extreme poverty", earning little or no in-

come. The group demanded a review of government policy in Chiapas and concluded that even if the Zapatistas were to disappear this would have little impact on the region, "as the causes that gave rise to the conflict would remain unresolved".

Even Bishop Samuel Ruiz, persecuted by both the government and the Catholic Church hierarchy, had something to celebrate this week, as 80 conservative priests from the Chiapas state capital, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, requested a two-day retreat with him to discuss the conflict.

The event was described as a "great success" by a participating priest, culminating in an emotive mass in Acteal village, where 45 unarmed rebel supporters were killed by paramilitaries last December.

During the three-day meeting with political activists from across Mexico, the Zapatistas reiterated their support for workers, women, gays, prisoners, farmers and foreigners who have thrown in their lot with the rebel cause.

Comandante Zedeeo said: "When the political experts sat paralysed behind their desks you came out and showed us that we were not alone."

As the weekend gathering ended, representatives of popular organisations faced the task of organising public assemblies and factory meetings to get ready for the countrywide rebel plebiscite they hope to hold next year.

The Zapatistas, meanwhile, prepared to return to their jungle communities, predicting an ever more aggressive military presence.

Salinger bans film by fan

Michael Ellison
in New York

EVER since he was a student in California in the 1960s, the respected Iranian film-maker Dariush Mehrjui has loved the writing of J.D. Salinger. Unfortunately for him, the feeling is not reciprocated.

When the film society of the Lincoln Centre in New York included Mr Mehrjui's movie, *Pari*, on the programme for a three-week festival of Iranian

cinema, it was no great surprise since it had already done the rounds in Europe.

Pari, adapted from Salinger's 1961 novel *Franny and Zooey*, was due to be shown at the weekend until the film society received a letter from the reclusive writer's lawyer saying the screening would breach copyright.

"We really had no choice but to cancel," said Richard Pena of the film society. "They said there was no authorisation for the adaption. It was assumed there was no

prohibition on the film, it's been around for a while."

Andrew Boose, Salinger's lawyer, said his client had just discovered that the film existed. "We're not looking for publicity, they simply did not seek permission from the copyright owner of the novel."

Pari, made in 1985, tells the story of three brothers and a sister tackling art and religion in Iran.

"This reaction is really quite bewildering," Mr Mehrjui said.



J.D. Salinger: objects to old movie by Iranian director

Honduran villagers survived Mitch with a method as old as the hills

In Guarita, Phil Gunson sees how farmers protected land

THE storm that devastated much of Honduras and northern Nicaragua went almost directly over the remote Honduran village of Guarita near the El Salvador border. But there is little evidence of Hurricane Mitch's passing.

"This is the most forgotten region of the country. We're so abandoned, even Mitch ignored us," said one resident.

Much of the population is of Lenca Indian origin. Just one telephone and four doctors serve 110,000 people, and the doctors do not work weekends. Malnutrition is put at 64 per cent and illiteracy at 50 per cent. The roads are like dry riverbeds. But no one died in the southern third of the province of Lempira and damage was minimal.

The explanation is a system for farming mountain-sides invented by poor subsistence farmers and now being refined and promoted by Honduran agronomists with foreign help. So successful is the system that those using it lost only 10 per cent of their crops in

this year's severe drought, and even after Mitch have a healthy grain surplus.

The Quezungal method, named after the village where it was first observed, avoids the slash-and-burn technique that destroys the forest and leads to erosion, soil degradation and the destruction of watersheds.

Now farmers who burn their land have been reduced to single figures in many of the 34 communities in which a programme is working — to promote the Quezungal method.

Slash-and-burn gives the soil a quick injection of fertiliser, in the form of burned vegetation, just before the rains come. Yields are good in the first year, but production quickly falls off. With no tree cover, the soil is washed into the rivers.

Some 70 per cent of Honduran farmland is hillside, but the agricultural colleges have traditionally taught plains farming, in the interests of the agribusiness companies dominating the export trade.

The destruction wrought by Mitch was a direct consequence of this one-sided approach, according to Ian Cherrett, who directs the Prolesur project for the Dutch overseas aid department and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

"There is no such thing as a natural disaster," Mr Cherrett argues. "There are natural phenomena which interact with human activities."

Those using the system lost only 10 per cent of crops in severe drought

When Mitch dumped a record volume of water over the Honduran mountains, the lack of hillside vegetation and soil led to extremely rapid run-off. Eroded soil and loose rocks added to the weight which crashed into roads, bridges and houses downstream. The disaster toll was exacerbated by a lack of planning, leaving houses, factories and farms in the path of the floodwaters.

The Quezungal method involves planting crops under trees, whose roots anchor the soil. Vegetation from pruning provides the soil nutrients and terracing or the use of natural plant barriers — helps eliminate erosion. Instead of ploughing, farmers use the traditional pointed stick when sowing.

Yields have increased, crop varieties are multiplying and birds and animals which are returning, proponents say.

"Before, we just had vegetables to feed ourselves," said 20-year-old Juvenina Aguilar, standing among pineapples, papayas and a dozen other varieties in the family's hillside plot above the hamlet of San Pablo. "Now there's a surplus of everything."

Although Quezungal is based on a local technique, there is no record of when it was first used, and it had almost died out when agronomists began studying it in the early 1990s.

Now, in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, the Honduran government is interested in extending Quezungal — which is suitable only for small, hillside plots — to other parts of the country.

Now UN chiefs can mediate and meditate

Mark Tran in New York

SHOULD Kofi Annan ever feel stressed out dealing with Iraq or some other crisis, the United Nations secretary-general can now seek refuge in the meditation room, a small oasis in a corner of the UN building in New York.

Closed in the late 1980s after it was vandalised, the

meditation room was opened permanently on Friday, after a two-month trial period. It is located in the visitors' lobby beside a blue glass panel by Chagall.

The room was conceived by Dag Hammarskjöld, secretary-general from 1953-1961, who supervised the room's every detail down to the width of the hemp and wood stools.

In a leaflet on the meditation room, the spiritual Ham-

marksjöld wrote: "This house, dedicated to work and debate in the service of peace, should have one room dedicated to silence in the outward sense and stillness in the inner sense."

In the middle of the small room — it has only 14 seats — sits a seven-ton block of polished Swedish iron, shimmering from a thin beam of light. Hammarskjöld felt this symbolised man's choice between

destruction and construction, between war and peace.

At the far end of the room is an abstract fresco by the Swedish artist Bro Beskow, who stepped in after Georges Braque could not come from Paris to do the art work.

The drive to reopen the room was led by Annika Sevall, a speech writer for Mr Annan, who discovered that her aunt, Elsa Martin, was one of its designers.

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Women warriors of old Europe



Warrior women 2,400 years ago were buried with their weapons and with jewellery, such as this golden horse (left) found near Voronezh. The burial mounds of Scythians, like those depicted on this vase (right), lend credence to the tales of Herodotus

Russians claim to unearth steppes' ancient Amazons

James Meek in Moscow on facts behind a myth

THE theory that parts of ancient eastern Europe were patrolled by posses of heavily armed women akin to the legendary Amazon warriors has been boosted by new evidence uncovered by Russian scientists.

A team of archaeologists investigating 2,400-year-old burial mounds built by the Scythian people on the upper River Don has found that five of 21 graves contained the bodies of young women with their weapons.

"Usually such women are found in large kurgans (Scythian burial mounds), buried with the same rituals as for men," said Valery Gulyayev of the Russian Institute of Archaeology in Moscow, who leads annual digs near the city of Voronezh.

"They are buried with womanly things — mirrors of silver and bronze, necklaces of gold, glass or clay, earrings, and sometimes a sym-



bolle spindle," Dr Gulyayev said. "But alongside these are weapons — a quiver, bow and arrows, and often two throwing spears."

At roughly the same time the Scythian women were being buried, the Greek historian Herodotus described

how a mythical race of women warriors, the Amazons, had left their homeland on the south shores of the Black Sea, travelled north, taken husbands among the local males and founded a new society.

Herodotus's tales of Amazons of the steppes in what is now Ukraine and southern Russia had been dismissed as fantasy. But the Voronezh discoveries, the first of their kind on the northern edge of Scythian settlement, add to older finds in Ukraine, the lower Don and the Ukok plateau near Mongolia.

They indicate a swath of sister cultures stretching from Hungary to China, which shared a love of gold and horses, and relationships that differed sharply from the male-dominated society of their neighbouring contemporaries, the ancient Greeks.

"We have a fixed idea that European civilisation was

built on Greco-Roman foundations," Dr Gulyayev said. "In a sense, this is fair. But if we ignore the fact that in the West and in the East two large, so-called barbarian cultures, the Celts and the Scythians, made an enormous contribution to ancient Europe, we fail to see the whole picture."

Debate about the role of the women warriors of ancient Ukraine and Russia has intensified lately as the long-divided archaeological cultures of the Soviet and Western worlds begin to mesh.

Contemporary Greek accounts of military clashes do not mention women on the battlefield. Modern writers have suggested that closer examination of the "female" skeletons may prove them to be transvestites.

Dr Gulyayev's theory is far from the bloodthirsty picture painted by Herodotus, who said virgin Amazons were not

permitted to marry until they had killed a man in battle.

"Yes, there probably was an obligation on the women to serve as warriors," he said. "But it seems likely that when the men left the settlements to pasture their herds, they left the women on guard. These young women and girls on horseback were in the role of lightly armed troops. They were guarding the hearth and the homestead."

The tombs being excavated by Dr Gulyayev's team were originally inside kurgans. The dead were buried in high chambers, with their possessions and weapons gilded, beside an amphora of Greek wine, foal meat and an iron knife.

Most of the graves were plundered long ago, but last year the team found an untouched burial chamber containing the skeleton of a man and an old woman of high status, who, at the time of

death, was severely disabled and unable to eat solid food.

The woman, who had traces of rouge on her face and left fragments of face powder on her mirror, wore solid gold earrings with gold pendants hanging from them and had a chain of gold-foil beads across her shoulders. The man had dozens of tiny gold-foil horses scattered across him.

Working with meagre resources, Dr Gulyayev's team are racing to excavate kurgans in the region before intensive farming and building destroy them.

"All the kurgans are on ploughable black earth. I've seen kurgans three metres high just vanish," Dr Gulyayev said. "If we don't excavate them now, then in a few years they'll disappear."

"Our aim now is to get the money by any means and from any source — apart from criminal — to get these graves investigated."

Embattled Turkish coalition set to fall

Chris Morris in Ankara

THE Turkish parliament begins debating a no-confidence motion today, which is almost certain to bring down the government after months of allegations that senior figures are corrupt and linked to gangsters.

The country is about to be thrown back into political turmoil just as it wants to present a strong image abroad to press a reluctant Italy to hand over the Kurdish rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

The prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, who denies corruption allegations, was in defiant mood when he addressed thousands of supporters at the national congress of his Motherland Party on Saturday.

The next election, expected to take place in April, is likely to produce further deadlock. There have been proposals to reform the electoral system to ensure clearer parliamentary majorities, but none has won much support.

The pro-Islamist Virtue Party, which emerged after the Welfare party was de-

Turkey's main parties are united in wanting the extradition of Mr Ocalan, whom they see as a ruthless terrorist. But the fall of the government is bound to add confusion to the country's foreign policy, at least in the short term.

The current coalition is Turkey's fifth government in three years. It came to power 18 months ago after the government led by the pro-Islamist Welfare Party was forced out under pressure from the military.

The strength of the Islamist movement has added to the sense of political instability. The Islamists won just over 20 per cent of votes cast at the last general election, but they emerged as the largest party in parliament because squabbling secular parties split the rest of the vote between them.

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The pro-Islamist Virtue Party, which emerged after the Welfare party was de-

"We really need a strong government to deal with recent developments that involve the PKK"

clared illegal at the beginning of this year, remains the biggest single group in parliament. But opposition from the military means that Virtue is highly unlikely to be asked to form an interim government before the election.

A broad-based administration including politicians and technocrats may well emerge to govern the country for the next few months, but that will be a temporary measure. Many key policy decisions may have to be put on hold.

"We really need a strong government at the moment," wrote Taha Akyol commented in Milliyet newspaper last week. "Especially to deal with the recent developments involving the PKK."

Most Turks share those sentiments, but have different ideas on how to put them into practice. Ankara's main fear is that while it is embroiled in political infighting, Mr Ocalan and the PKK will gain a political foothold in Europe.

No Turkish government would be willing to talk to the PKK directly, but there may be increasing pressure from Europe for Turkey to take political measures to alleviate widespread discontent in the mainly Kurdish south-east, where the PKK is seeking self-rule.

Parlez-vous die neue lingua per all Europa?

Stephen Bates in Brussels

IT is given to few people to invent their own language, but Diego Marani, an Italian translator in Brussels, may just have succeeded.

It is called Europanto, a mix of German, Italian and Spanish with an English foundation, sounding not unlike a Continental version of linguistic contortionist Professor Stanley Unwin on speed.

But it has already won Mr Marani, aged 39, his own weekly column in Belgian and Swiss newspapers, and

even got him a respectful mention in the New York Times. It has also incurred the wrath of the champions of Esperanto, who don't see the joke.

Mr Marani's Belgian column this week looks at the United States and President Clinton's liaison with Monica Lewinsky. "After de Lewinsky affaire," it begins, "de USA leadership necessite urgente restaurazione, as de image van die olde mundiale superpower est noch eine bischen tarnished."

"America must demonstrate que, despite de seine morale decadence, rochdesminder can mucho machosmente dominante der volles mundo."

The idea, Mr Marani explains, is to help people who know English has become the international language but who do not have it as their mother tongue. He believes everyone can understand Europanto. If you don't know a word, just substitute one from your own language that foreigners might follow.

English is now inescapable in Europe, "but still very few people are fluent. This helps them express themselves in their own words," he said.

Mr Marani speaks fluent English, French, Dutch and Spanish as well as his native Italian and is currently brushing up his Finnish and starting to learn Slovenian.

He started Europanto — *pono* as in Greek for everything — to amuse his friends. His humorous columns have led to inquiries from all over Europe. The Swiss in particular keep writing to ask whether he has published a dictionary, or where they can go on training courses.

"The Germans are very amused because they see the joke. The French were, you

know, a bit stiffy (sic) in the beginning. But now they like it because they see it as a way of destroying English," he said.

Only the Esperantists have been offended. They write him earnest letters complaining that his language has no proper rules.

Nikola Basic, secretary of the World Esperanto Association, said: "I am a professional linguist. What is he? A clerk?"

Mr Marani said: "The Esperanto people are very tiring. I would never have thought of myself as a threat. These people send me all their publi-

cations and the ones who send me the rudest letters are from England."

Next year a series of books in Europanto will be published in France, including *Las Aventuras des Inspector Cabillot*, the tale of a bumbling detective from the European Agency of Strange Matters.

But there is a problem with Europanto — it is very difficult to speak. "Sometimes I speak a few sentences with another enthusiast," said Mr Marani wistfully, "but there's always a problem of pronunciation."

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Tito cookbook lifts pot lid on appetite for excess

Jonathan Steele

AS A camp diversion from Serbia's economic decline, a Belgrade publisher has produced an extraordinary collection of "Tito recipes" complete with lavish photographs of the late Yugoslav strongman's huge intake.

While Serbs tighten their belts for another hard winter, they can salivate over food he shared with Gino Lollobrigida and Jackie Kennedy — and banquets for world leaders.

The wartime partisan giant, who harried the Nazis, gave Yugoslavia its unique brand of self-made aged socialism and kept the country at internal peace for more than 40 years. Liked peasant cooking heavy on fatty pies, with little salad.

Nor was he a fish man, according to Branko Trbovic, head of Tito's kitchen, who produced more than 20,000 meals during 25 years of service. He recorded the menus and kept glossy photographs for later use.

As a hero of the non-aligned movement and courted by East and West, Tito used his political position and his country's Mediterranean climate and coastline to charm actresses, stars, and statesmen stayed at his private island of Brioni and the former royal hunting lodges he had taken over.

Josef Tito was no cook himself, but the book confirms that Sophia Loren liked preparing pasta even before she wrote prize-winning cookbooks. Mr Trbo-



Tito and his wife Jovanka get stuck into a light snack of venison kebabs during a hunting trip to Poland

vic says that during one two-week stay, "Tito got very fond of cooking and became Sophia's regular and eager helper."

He gives the recipe for the fish soup Tito offered Lollobrigida, and the Hungarian-style mixed cheese with paprika with which the Queen and Prince Philip were entertained. Ho Chi Minh, leader of North Vietnam, got risotto.

Mr Trbovic writes of the banquets laid out during countless foreign trips. "In Korea dog meat is a favourite food and brandy with a snake in the bottle is a favourite drink." At lunch in Pyongyang with Kim Il-sung, the waiters noticed that the Yugoslavs had avoided the stew. They told Tito's party not to worry. "No woor woor," they assured them.

News in brief

100 missing in storm wake

AROUND 100 fishermen were missing and thousands of people lost their homes and crops yesterday as a severe cyclonic storm hit eastern India.

Some 20,000 people were evacuated from coastal areas of West Bengal ahead of the storm, which later moved towards Bangladesh, where 100,000 had last night been moved away from danger areas.

Local authorities had deployed rescue teams with relief materials in West Bengal before the storm hit, the Press Trust of India said. — Reuters.

Saudi prince denies abuse

A SAUDI prince accused by two butlers of abusing his Egyptian servants called on President Hosni Mubarak to stop a possible deterioration in relations with Egypt.

"We call on officials, headed by President Hosni Mubarak, to unearth the truth and deal with these allegations," said Prince Turki bin Abdul-Aziz, brother of King Fahd, in the Cairo newspaper *al-Arabi* yesterday.

He said accusations in the Egyptian press that the butlers were tortured and held against their will were planted by a group trying to spoil Saudi relations with Egypt. — Reuters, Cairo.

US crime rate falls again

THE crime rate in the United States continued to fall last year, and hit its lowest level in 23 years as police reported a drop in the number of mur-

ders and robberies. The FBI said in a 420-page report released yesterday that there were nearly 13.2 million serious offences last year. It was the sixth year running that the number of crimes had gone down.

But although rates fell, there was still a burglary every 13 seconds, a robbery every minute, a rape every five minutes and a murder every half hour. — Reuters, Washington.

Prisoners on hunger strike

PALESTINIAN prisoners in Israeli jails began a hunger strike yesterday in protest at Israel's refusal to free them under the new peace deal.

"Fatah prisoners in Megdido prison have started an open-ended hunger strike. It will spread," said a detainee in the jail.

Palestinian and Israeli officials disagree over which Palestinians might be freed under the US-brokered Wye River deal. The Palestinian Authority has appealed for the US to press Israel to free political detainees. — Reuters, Jerusalem.

Writer gives herself up

A FEMINIST writer accused of blasphemy who has been in hiding for years following death threats from hardline Muslims gave herself up yesterday to the Bangladesh high court in Dhaka.

Judge Kazi Ebadul Huq granted Taslima Nasreen bail after a 30-minute hearing. She did not say whether the writer, who was driven away by relatives, would now come out of hiding. Islamic radicals said they would not withdraw calls for Nasreen to be hanged. — Reuters, Dhaka.

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e-mail

Duncan Campbell
@ Mauritius

OUTSIDE the village of Arsenal in Mauritius is a massive piece of graffiti, covering an entire wall. It reads: "Very sad. The end of a dream for Manchester United." Its implicit reference to a north London football club with the same name as the village is just one of many links that the country has to British football.

Mauritians gather round their television sets to watch live satellite English Premier division games on Saturdays. Boys proudly wear Manchester United and Liverpool replica shirts when, being counterfeited, are sold for the sensible price of 130 rupees (about £3). The recent departure of Roy Evans as Liverpool manager was front page news in Mauritian newspapers.

But it is another, less publically celebrated British connection which has had prominence this month on this small island in the Indian Ocean. Last weekend, 500 people marched through the streets of Port Louis chanting: "Give us back our land", before laying wreaths outside the British High Commission. They were protesting against the United Kingdom's role in removing the Chagos Archipelago from the administrative control of Mauritius, then a British colony, and leasing it to the United States for use as a military and nuclear base. Around 1,500 of the islanders were forced or tricked into leaving their homes and moving to Mauritius, where many have ended up living in the slums of Port Louis. Some of the islanders had left on holidays or shopping trips only to discover that there were no boats for the return trip.

THE full details of the secret negotiations, which led to this were unveiled in Mauritius by Henri Marimootoo, a journalist on the Sunday newspaper *Week-End*. This month Marimootoo was nominated as one of the finalists in the 1998 awards for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting, a remarkable achievement for a reporter from a tiny, under-resourced newspaper.

Marimootoo had been attached to the *Guardian* last year as part of a British Council scholarship and used this time in London to sift diligently through the classified papers on the island. What he discovered has since reverberated around Mauritius.

The United Kingdom paid \$550,000 to the Mauritians in 1978 as compensation for what it had done and a further \$4 million in 1982 — on condition that the islanders signed away their right to return. Now, more than 30 years after the betrayal, the issue is back on the streets of Mauritius, but will attract rather less attention both locally and internationally than the fortunes of Manchester United and Arsenal, and little in the way of action.

Very sad. The end of a dream for the Chagos Islanders.



Give these ermine hooligans one last fling, then off with their heads

Queen's Speech (I)

Polly Toynbee



MAXIMUM mayhem, promises one leading Tory peer. Can this be happening? Politics is descending into farce and it will be a fine black comedy. Let world economic disaster loom, let the global climate debate hot up and war threaten in the Gulf — we in Britain will be debating the hereditary peerage for the next two years. Yesterday a group of "outraged" C of E and Catholic bishops, with assorted other religious persons, protested to the Prime Minister about closed lists under the banner of the Movement for Christian Democracy — oxymoron. If ever there was, where exactly is the democracy in an established church only attended by a small minority of the population? Where are the priests and bishops elected by their own congregations, or to their thrones in the Lords? Who elects the Pope? Is this really happening? Are we seriously going to spend two years dusting down old school debating society arguments over this nonsense?

Out of the mausoleum come the old under the punching air, above their long dead weight — see how a bunch of bishops can seize the front pages. The feeble issue of "no closed lists" in European elections — where few vote and virtually none know the names of who they're voting for — is about to sabotage the Government's programme. There is nothing to stop the Lords, who have no guillotine, from talking and filibustering us into the millennium.

Tomorrow's Queen's Speech is a roll call of the Government's most important manifesto promises: the Scotland and Wales devolution bill, still

to pass through the Lords; the bill creating a mayor and new government for London, including a congestion tax; the bill to give trade union rights to all workplaces; another to allow solicitors to break the cartel of the barristers; a Welfare Reform Bill targeting available money on the poorest, starting with the disabled; a bill to reduce the gay age of consent to 16; to reform the NHS; to deal with failing local authorities and create mayors in the cities, among many more.

Unleashed from old constraints, peers on death row will find a new freedom to obstruct and cavil at them all, bursting with fine rhetoric about true democracy and the good of the people. As it happens this list of bills could have been designed to provide fodder for the Lords' objections at the best of times. Their lordships always claim to be on their highest horses over anything to do with lawyers' rights and the rights of the disabled — for obvious reasons. Now they proclaim themselves arbiters of the constitution they'll find plenty in this agenda to sink their gums into.

This is a nightmare from which I keep thinking we shall awake and find that of course they can't do it: there must be an Article X or Y that allows the Commons to kill them at a stroke. But no, this really is happening and the Parliament Act takes time. The ermine hooligans are having their last fling. The Salisbury Convention by which they agree to not touch anything that was in the manifesto isn't worth the paper it's not written on: PR for the Euro elections was in the

manifesto but the Lords are preventing it. The petty issue of closed lists hardly warrants the mighty act of breaching this convention. Even if open lists are preferable, the issue could never justify the enormity of the Lords' disgraceful behaviour.

This is the last throw of desperate men — no, not of the Lords, but of the Conservatives, Hague and his bad advisers. If they can't kick ass in the Commons, they'll make their puny fists felt through their hereditary majority in the Lords (only 17 hereditary peers are Labour). Newly set up in a Westminster office with a staff and money from undisclosed sources, Common Sense for Lords Reform attempts to persuade anyone who will listen that they are not a Tory front. They pretend that the abomination of a House of Lords consisting only of life peers for an interim two or three years is more disgraceful than what we have now. They try to frighten us with a "Tony's cronies" Lords — although the Tories would still have a majority among life peers.

THIS is all piffle of a high order. First, the manifesto always said it would be done in two phases — hereditary abolition then total reform. Second, you can bet your cornucopia that whatever system the Government proposed, their lordships would find sound and reasoned objections to it, delaying their own demise with more of this hypocritical talk of democracy. The one and only way to get rid of them is to do it in two phases — the rest is cant. In 1999 Lords reform fell because of a wicked combination of as-

sorted right and left objections to the alternative proposed. There is no chance of getting a reasonable debate about what kind of second chamber we need until the hereditaries are eliminated. Does the outgoing regime in any organisation get to choose its successor? When you ask what the Common Sense campaign wants, out come the old myths in defence of hereditary: "it's the best debating society", "the most constructive place to solve difficult things" and the Lords is powered "by good will, good judgment and a sense of duty" — all of which seem to have now deserted them.

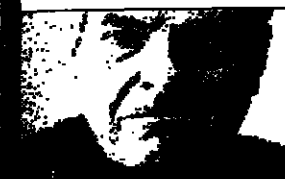
The veiled threat to sabotage government business comes with a daft compromise offer. They want to keep the 350 most "effective" hereditary and life performers in the Lords, until a new second chamber is created. The public committee select things they would be a delight — but every attempt to tinker with the system only makes the whole thing more transparently preposterous. (Their best claim to remain is that they still own the country — half of London and the West Midlands, Cheshire and Belgrave and half the countryside.)

I can't believe I'm writing this. What are we doing even discussing it? Off with their heads, that's what we voted for. Why tolerate one more unctuous speech from them on the nature of democracy? Block your ears to siren voices about a counter-balance to Blair's control freak tendency. He may have funded this by giving them the tiniest straw of credibility to clutch — but we should not even pause to consider this nonsense.

It's time we stopped worrying and learned to love the list

I like the closed list

Peter Preston



THERE is the wood and there are the trees. The trees, old and bare, are their Lordships, blocking the Commons in a gushing show of higher conscience. Finer but they are due for felling anyway. It is the hardwood that matters, the implementation of what may be a system for next year's European elections which isn't first-past-the-post.

In the new spirit of wiry, spiky (non-woolly) liberalism, let's look again at our Government's widely reviled solution. And let's speak plainly, as though Alastair Campbell were roasting us in a back room somewhere, not dishing out lightly poached public pieties. List PR is no bizarre concoction from outer space. It is used in 66 democratic countries around the world with a combined population of 865 million people. Seventeen western European countries operate that way: Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, Spain and Norway among them. There aren't many closet autocracies on this mass march.

Ah — but what about closed lists and open lists, the great dividing line? What about the sacred right of the electorate to vote for individual candidates rather than the lumpen party slate? Yet again, there's no glimpse of outer space. A majority of the 17 western European countries work with closed lists for domestic elections. If you want to go further afield, toss in South Africa and Israel for luck. And (as Tony Blair is vainly trying to point out amid the din) two-thirds of the European Union countries voting for the Strasbourg parliament will use closed list PR. We would not be alone. We would be part of the crowd.

There is, of course, no perfect electoral system: there is only — as my Stockholm friends at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance make clear — the broad desirability of choosing a means which matches a desired end. Mindless uniformity offers no benefits here. There are no governments in Strasbourg. It is a different game to be played differently.

Most other countries think that self-evident commonsense. Britain, bumbling along, reaches the same conclusion without recognising it. Who cares if the Scottish Assembly and the Royal Jenkins' formula aren't identical? Who would care if Westminster stayed first-past-the-post and Edinburgh did something else? There are courses and there are horses.

The Strasbourg course involves very little of the personal surgery stuff beloved by domestic MPs. The constituencies are too vast for MEP recognition, let alone effective action. In this forum, the regions count for much more. The vast bulk of European work, at regional and national level, ought to reflect the interests of Saxony, Burgundy or the West Midlands, and Britain, France or Germany.

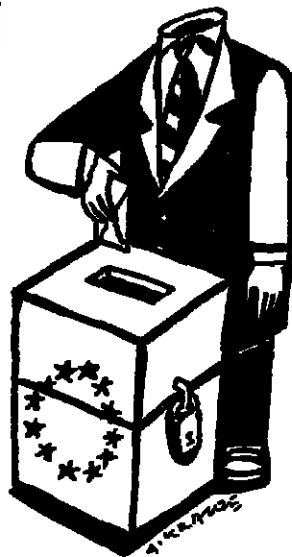
THOSE, on one tier, are the interests of the various parties joining forces to defend their home turf and, at the greater level, speaking up for the causes and policies of their leaders back at the ranch. That way, their speeches and their votes can deliver tangible influence. But this is not our present way.

The Conservative MEPs, departing for the most part into Hague-induced oblivion, speak only for themselves. They are (mainly) in favour of making Europe work, but their masses, huddled in Central Office, have changed their minds. They are sceptical going on disruptive. The result is fatuous nullity. The Tories would be far better, on current form, to endorse closed lists and give themselves some MEPs who reflect what the party actually thinks. Without them, they're forced to grind through the charade of loyalty tests and phoney referendums

to achieve exactly the same result. And Labour? Carry on plain speaking. Some of the group reflect their party and the thrust of their policies, some are ancient relics from a different age and a different Labour Party. They were elected because they signed up for the party ticket, because they got on to another sort of list; but once on site, they simply plough their own, narrow furrow. They aren't remotely accountable. They are a pointless pain. Party discipline matters because parties matter, and parties without discipline disintegrate. The Conservatives have disintegrated in Cinemascope and Technicolor. They, for the moment, do not matter. Why should Tony Blair sing hymns from their song book? Closed lists have solid points in the plus column. They stop candidates on a party's list attacking each other for votes here and there. They allow a diverse set of candidatures from a region — white, black, Asian, male, female — to be elected in a balanced way.

WHAT is the point, for Mr Blair and Mr Brown, in packing off a fresh crowd of malcontents and dissidents to speak for nobody but themselves in an under-reported assembly in north-east France? What is the point of being the governing party of Britain and leaving the remnants of the days of barren opposition to do their European talking for them? What's the point of general elections and specific manifestos?

The open list (see Jenkins) has its place; but this is not the place. The Liberal Democrats, with a distinctive European vision, will poll between 15 and 20 per cent next year. Why pretend



We wouldn't be alone — two thirds of the EU will vote this way for Strasbourg

(first past the unreformed post) that their vote has no significance and merits no representation? New Labour may not have quite made up its mind about the euro, but at least deserves the chance to send a few open minds to speak on its behalf.

We are not, the pother of outrage aside, being forced-fed with dictatorial gruel. Mr Blair is opting for a system which will lose him seats, not gain them: the absolute reverse of incipient dictatorship. So, in another part of the forest, his Scottish wing doesn't want Dennis Canavan in the assembly. That is his prerogative. MPs, to be brutal, are only worth a thousand or so personal votes at best. Mr Canavan sits at Westminster because the Labour Party endorses him and his unreconstructed opinions. But why, in a new Parliament, don another hair shirt? Why sit their on the Thames and take the Livingstone tablets?

Tony Blair is neither obsessively controlling nor freakish. He merely wants what any half-way effective leader would want: the opportunity, after due debate, to construct a writ which runs beyond the end of Downing Street. And he specifically wants a block of MEPs he can rely on — like all his fellow prime ministers — to reflect the future, not the past. Little lists aren't the tools of devil worship. They are reasonable means to a sensible end. There now... is that wiry and spiky enough?

Walking backwards

Queen's Speech (II)

Roy Hattersley

TOMORROW the Queen will arrive at the House of Commons a little before noon. She will be wearing full evening dress, complete with tiara, and the Duke of Edinburgh will be in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet. If the Prince of Wales, (promoted to three-star rank on his 50th birthday) is also there, he too will be in full regiments — a very modern major-general, air marshal, or rear-admiral.

The Queen, escorted through the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords by men dressed as playing cards, will be guarded by retired servicemen (dressed like Tudor flunkies) who spent the previous night searching the Palace of Westminster for signs of a Popish plot. Her real protection will be supervised by the Commissioner of Police who, under a spiked

helmet, will ride about Whitehall on a borrowed horse. And we are supposed to believe that the State Opening of Parliament has been modernised because when the Queen enters the Lords' Chamber only two of her retainers will walk backwards instead of the usual four.

In fact, most of what goes on tomorrow morning illustrates an aspect of the monarchy about which we hear too little. We are increasingly and rightly reminded that it is an anachronism which must take most of the blame for focusing the nation's attention on the glorious past rather than an uncertain future.

There is mounting criticism of its visible extravagance and proper resentment of the way in which its existence encourages both deference and the strange superstition that some families possess inherent virtues which they pass on generation to generation. But we rarely hear the most damaging indictment of all. The institution

is inherently silly. And it obliges everyone it touches to do silly things. If you doubt it, watch television and see Labour Peers many of them of remarkable ability and with a genuine radical disposition — dressed up like the chorus of Iolanthe.

I am reminded of the monarchy's absurdity on those early mornings when I pass Buckingham Palace and witness a strange ritual which does not appear in any of the guide books. A police van pulls up outside the gates of Green Park and four officers take up positions which enable them to stop the traffic on Constitution Hill, around the Victoria Monument, and along the Mall into Trafalgar Square. Their colleagues at the Palace gates — normally a jovial bunch who provide untiring help to tourists — halt all pedestrian movement.

The gates swing open and Prince Andrew is driven off in convoy to his desk job at the Ministry of Defence, without suffering the hu-

miliation of being held up by traffic lights or gridlocks. The inconvenience so caused does not amount to much. And it provides an opportunity for my dog to sit down and scratch himself but, when you think about it, the whole performance is absurd.

Unfortunately, the absurdity is contagious. Six months ago, as part of the

The monarchy is silly, and it obliges everyone it touches to do silly things

Palace's charm offensive, the Queen visited somewhere in Whitehall after a brief stop in Westminster, and she walked the 50 yards between the two engagements.

Royal reporters could contain neither their astonishment nor their delight. They had seen the Queen walk before but normally only to podium, dais or sa-

luting base and then only after the cheering crowds had been cleared from her path.

By walking like you and I — simply to move her Royal Personage from one place to another — the Queen was said to have signified her closeness to the people. It is amazing that the event has not been marked by symbolic footprints carved into the paving stones.

And it seems that we will never grow up. The Times devotes a more or less serious editorial to the Prince of Wales's use of the adjective "bloody" while, on the same day, the Telegraph profiles the pages who will carry the Queen's train to the State Opening. Meanwhile the *Mirror* locks crumpled horns with Buckingham Palace about its report of Prince Harry's very minor injury.

For what it is worth, there can be no doubt that the *Mirror* was entitled to publish the story. The Royal Family — since they trade under that name — have less right to privacy than the rest of us. If Harry

is going to be king one day, his loyal future subjects have a right to know when he is hit on the head. The real criticism of the *Mirror* is that they bothered to tell the story. Who cares?

The answer to that rhetorical question is "the thousands of people who have been persuaded by newspapers that there is something interesting, perhaps even exciting, about royalty". Brigitte Bardot, flying over from France to visit a dog on remand, attracts the same sort of press attention.

The sort of interest which the press stimulates — part prurient and part obsequious — would not end if the monarchy were merely modernised. There would be endless pictures of Princess Margaret on her bicycle and the Queen Mother queuing at the Sainsbury check-out. The only solution is abolition or replacement by a powerless president. It is hard to be silly about a faceless figurehead whose name you cannot even remember.

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The end of secrecy

New medical ethic needed

IT WAS a distinguished medical practitioner, not a Westminster politician, who set out the most cogent reasons why doctors must become more open. "Medicine used to be simple, ineffective and relatively safe. It is now complex, effective and potentially dangerous. The mystical authority of the doctor used to be essential for practice. Now we need to be open and work in partnership with our colleagues in health care and with our patients." So said Sir Cyril Chantler, Dean of London's biggest medical school, speaking in America last month.

Do not expect all medical support this week's ministerial moves to give the regulatory bodies covering the different medical professions more power over their members. There will be a row over the procedure by which ministers are going to extend the powers of the regulatory bodies — an emergency mechanism, known as the Henry VIII clause, which is not normally used for changing domestic bills. And there will be

suspicions over ministerial motives. Is this just a first step down a road that will eventually lead to an independent medical regulator? OfDoc with sub-divisions for the other medical professions (nursing, physiotherapists, clinical psychologists, speech and occupational therapists and so on). Yet for all its long history of resisting outside scrutiny and reform, the medical profession now includes wise members who recognise that more accountability is needed. If the professions resist these extensions to self-regulation, then independent outside regulation is a certainty. As we report today, the current bodies can frequently remove a defaulting member from their register but not stop the member from continuing to practise. So far as doctors are concerned, this is not a problem. The General Medical Council (GMC) has the power to stop a doctor practising, but the power has been exercised far too infrequently.

Until now, the GMC has relied on doctors being ready to blow the whistle on under-performing colleagues. A special inquiry, headed by the Chief Medical Officer, into how incompetent doctors could be identified reported over three years ago, leading to an obligation being placed on doctors to report gross incompetence. Yet three years on, two hugely embarrassing cases have exposed the inadequacy of the present system: Bristol, where three senior doctors were found

guilty of serious professional misconduct for continuing with operations on babies with heart defects long after their death rates were known to be unacceptable (29 out of 53 children died), and Kent, where an arrogant consultant gynaecologist with a horrendous record of blunders was allowed to continue for seven years.

Other reforms, already announced by ministers, will make the current system more accountable. The Government's white paper on health sets out proposals for a Commission for Health Improvement (CHI), a new agency which will check the competency of health units and publicise those that fall below acceptable levels. Sensibly, ministers are insisting on all doctors taking part in clinical audits because some doctors have always refused to participate in the voluntary exercises run by the royal colleges. And there will be more access to clinical outcomes — including deaths after operations — of medical teams. Patients have a right to know. Yet, unlike America, they will still not have access to the performance record of individual doctors.

The most encouraging development is the readiness of some current medical leaders to change their traditional secretive culture. Sir Donald Irvine, the GMC president, publicly committed himself to making the pro-

fession more open. The GMC's new handbook, sent to all doctors, places each under an obligation to report colleagues who breach the profession's ethical code. Self-regulation has an unhappy history, but now that it is supported by independent monitoring, it should be given one last chance.

Fitting rewards

Why not the same for all?

DIRECTORS of Britain's top 50 companies enjoy share options and long-term incentives worth over £1.7 million per board member, according to a survey by PIRC, the independent research consultancy. This is on top of an average directorial salary of £334,000. Does it matter? The question of top pay is firstly a matter for shareholders. Now PIRC has brought these figures into the public domain, shareholders may decide there isn't a problem for them.

But there are wider issues at stake. They partly concern presentation. It doesn't look good for the bosses to be getting huge rewards when the Bank of England is desperate to quell wage inflation in order to bring interest rates down. Excesses at the top may also affect the wider world. Unions will become much less likely to accept non-

inflationary pay increases if their leaders use different rules.

A second question is whether these incentives pay for themselves by making the companies concerned (and the economy) more successful than they would otherwise have been. It is difficult to give a definitive answer to this question. But, as PIRC points out, the point at which the rewards are triggered by the incentive schemes they looked at isn't at a level where exceptional performance has been achieved. Most of them pay out when earnings per share rise by 3 per cent a year for three years after allowing for inflation. Since the mass of companies do this year in and year out, it means that directors can qualify for these exceptional rewards just by doing nothing except sitting back and allowing the natural growth of the economy to inflate their share rewards. There is of course a real place for incentives in order to improve economic and corporate efficiency. But two conditions must be met. First the rewards should not be triggered until exceptional success has been recorded. Second, company law should be changed so that if share incentives are offered to directors they must also be offered to everyone else who works for the company. Exceptional directors can make a big difference, but let's not pretend that wealth is created by directors alone.

Letters to the Editor

Goin' to wash that man...

SO only 47 per cent of the French have a daily shower compared to 70 per cent of the British and German. The French are smaller. November 21. Sad that someone has apparently determined that a daily shower equates with cleanliness. One wonders how mankind survived for those thousands of years without the thermostat shower. But saddest of all is that if one is always going around in a sanitised state, then one has never experienced the smell and taste of one's partner, which doesn't say much for the British sex life. But then we French knew that a long time ago. Alain Fleed, London

IN seeking to justify the proposed shunt of News at Ten to 11pm, Richard Eysen declares ITV to be the provider of "diverse public-service" programming (News at Ten must move, November 19). What he fails to acknowledge is that commercial broadcasting is primarily concerned with delivering audiences to advertisers to maximise returns to shareholders. Eysen should cut the waffle about fighting "punchy digital competitors" and come clean: what he is proposing is to clear the decks of the evening schedule in order to show 20-minute slices of popular American films between advertising breaks. E J M Duggan, Ipswich

ACCORDING to a photo-caption in your article on the demise of News at Ten, "Killing off the programme will make way for uninterrupted movies". No adverts, then? Stephen Higgins, Staines, Middx

FIONA MacTaggart MP will never make the Treasury bench if she hopes to save 17.5 per cent of her total by avoiding VAT (Letters, November 19). To avoid disappointment, try 14.9 per cent, Fiona. Ted Wilson, Birmingham

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

The sub-culture of rape

IT "odious" to point a finger of blame at young black men involved in gang rape (Anyone here been raped by white boys? November 19). Two months before her 14th birthday, my daughter and a friend were lured into a flat and raped: all four assailants, between 15 and 18 years old, were of African-Caribbean descent. The 18 months between the time and the trial were a time of mental torment. I degenerated from a well-intentioned liberal to an almost pathological racist. I blamed any young black I encountered for my daughter's plight. With the trial and sentencing over, time eventually healed our wounds.

The vocabulary of "race" and "white" is too crude to describe what is going on in our inner cities. A toxic mix of social exclusion and the marginalisation of ethnic groups, together with peer pressure to conform to a "hard core" image, has bred a sub-culture of violent misogyny among teenage males. Violence is seen as an extension of sex. Yes, white racism has been a factor, but so have ideas about masculinity and the role of women common in the black community and which are further propagated in inner-city street culture. Darius Howe is right: broadcast and be damned; a debate urgently needs to be had. Flawed as it was, the Dispatches programme was as good a place to start as any. Name and address supplied.

SOMEONE must be having fun describing 'The Blue Room' as "critically acclaimed" (Theatre boosted by star attractions, November 19). I recall critics slobbering over Ms Kidman's lovely form, which seemed to obscure any reasonable consideration of Hare's play. Having seen it, I doubt the work will have any lasting impression. Caro Newling of the Donmar is disingenuous describing the casting of Kidman as "an artistic choice, not an economic choice" then stating "we are already reaping the rewards with the bookings for our next production". The Almeida, the Donmar et al are not fringe theatres.

HAS anyone been raped by white boys? Well, yes actually. By a gang. I didn't report it to the police. I thought I'd have been asked why I lied then on. I felt too ashamed to tell anyone — except a priest and he didn't believe me. Not enough bruises, you see.

Even at 17, confused, frightened and upset, I knew one thing. If they had been black, I wouldn't have had those fears. I, the white girl, would have been believed. In the 18 years since, I have been proved so right. But you wouldn't know it from Dispatches. This was not a programme about rape or the need to speak out. It was pure racist filth.

Take one example, a horrific attack on two young girls. We weren't told what race they were but the picture shown was of a white girl. The faces of the rapists, all black. Later it emerged that the gang was "mainly black" and one of the two victims was black. No film-maker can tell me they don't understand the power of image over words. The excuse is that we need to understand it to stop it. But where was the discussion of how attitudes of young men and young women are formed in a society that uses women's bodies as commodities? What about how machismo can be

the only way of feeling some self-worth in a world that has consigned so many working-class young men, black and white, to the scrap heap by the time they enter secondary school? I'm glad I am not a young black man — walking streets where gangs like that which killed Stephen Lawrence lurk. Name and address supplied.

BOTH the documentary and following discussion missed a major facet of the issues raised, the systematic and near endemic social exclusion of young black boys. Prison population, mental illness, schools exclusion, unemployment and sexual health: black youngsters are over-represented in all of these social categories. The behaviour highlighted is the acute end of a conveyor belt of failed social and education policies.

My organisation, the largest HIV/sexual health charity working with London's black and ethnic communities, has been working with the Social Exclusion Unit on their strategy to cut rates of unplanned teenage pregnancies. I hope the Government, following the Lawrence inquiry, and what are likely to be poor statistics from the New Deal on outcomes for black youngsters, will prioritise the production of a race and social exclusion report by the SEU in 1999. Mark Blake, Director, Blackinkers



Why the Spiral won't make a splash

RE your correspondent's concern over the water management system for the V&A's new extension, the Spiral (November 19). It is a frequently asked question, but one that has been addressed by the architect and design engineers from a very early stage in the project.

To maintain the unique sculptural qualities of the building, there will be no visible services. The Spiral facade will be clad in ceramic tiles that are mechanically fixed to the exterior walls. A combination of open joints between the tiles and a guttering system between the tiles and the walls will trap water and channel it away from the surfaces and down to the underground drainage system. Gwyn Miles, Head of major projects, V&A

CONGRATULATIONS to Kensington and Chelsea's planning committee for ignoring the advice of their officials and approving of Daniel Libeskind's Spiral — and to the spirit of your editorial (November 18). A public inquiry would have been fun, if expensive, but probably we still need the level of debate that this would have engendered, as the "Glass Stump" inquiry did in 1984.

As for those who think they won't like Libeskind's design, they can walk past the site through the Exhibition Road tunnel. One suspects, though, that once they glimpse Libeskind's entrance, they will be attracted in against what seems, at the moment, not to be their better judgment. Prof Geoffrey Broadbent, Southsea, Hants

Hope for HIV/Aids sufferers in the developing world

HAVING just returned from a review of HIV/Aids control in Cambodia for the EU, I can understand John Gittings's sense of hopelessness in the face of this epidemic in the developing world (Aids: the birth of a new inequality, November 19). Changes in sexual behaviours are unlikely to occur at anything like the speed necessary to stop the spread of HIV.

The only real hope for many developing countries, where up to 25 per cent of the adult population is now living with HIV/Aids, is a preventive HIV vaccine. Scientifically, it is a real possibility — 35 "candidate" vaccines have already been developed. What is required are the resources for vaccine research and development and a bold approach to testing — especially in developing countries where 95 per cent of infections are occurring. Because pharmaceutical companies see little potential profit in a vaccine to prevent the types of HIV common in the poorest countries, public investment must fill the gap. The International Aids Vaccine Initiative has launched a European programme to raise the financial and political support needed to find a preventive vaccine for HIV. CHIT Lenton, National Aids Trust

IN the developing world, millions of people have to care for those who are ill with HIV/Aids. This is primarily the extended family and the communities in which they live. Statistics on the effects of HIV/Aids rarely take account of this second-degree effect and thereby greatly underestimate the effects of the disease.

As well as accounting for half of all new infections, hundreds of thousands of children have to care for parents, relatives or siblings. In giving up their schooling or work, they are sacrificing their youth. Yet reproductive health and HIV/Aids programmes usually do not take into account the special needs and impact of Aids on these young people.

John is unfair in his stereotypical reference to "the familar Third World formula of misery, ignorance and official neglect". It ignores the successes of countries such as Uganda and Thailand in stemming the tide of infections, and the critical role played by community-based organisations in responding to the epidemic. Whereas the full horror of Aids is inevitable for the majority of people with HIV, quality of life is greatly improved by education, proper nutrition, counselling, community support and care. For the millions of infected poor people the priority is access to basic treatments and needs, including food, shelter and education, as opposed to the "drug cocktails" he mentions. Dr Jacqueline Batarlingaya, ActionAid

Grove's academy

David McKie



SOME ADVICE to concert-goers. Even if deeply impressed by a performance of Beethoven's, or the B-flat piano sonata 29, on no account attempt to augment your applause by starting to chant: "One Franz Schubert, there's only one Franz Schubert." This statement would not be true. There are — or rather were — three Franz Schuberts: the one that everyone's

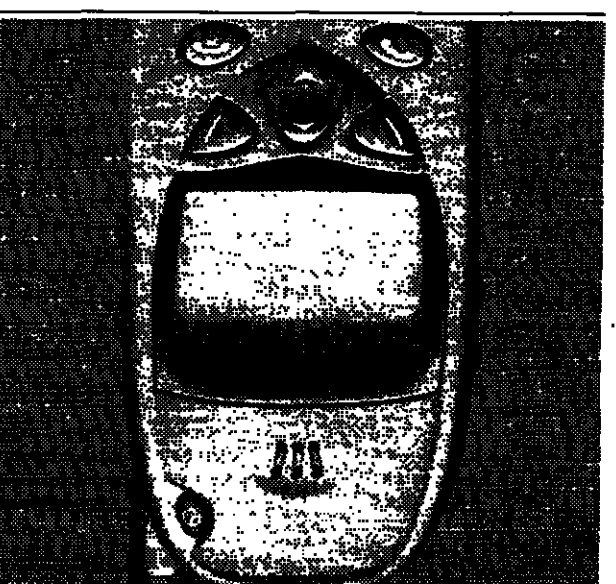
heard of, and two others. Franz Anton, and his son Franz, also known as François. Franz Anton (1768-1827) was a musician of some consequence in Saxony, at least in his own estimation, at a time when the great Franz Peter was quite unknown. In 1815 Franz Peter sent a "prentice work called Erlkönig to the publishers Breitkopf and Härtel who, having examined it, sent it back. But not to Franz Peter; by mistake they despatched it instead to Franz Anton, who wrote back in a fury, saying the work wasn't his, but that he would now return it, "so as to learn if possible who has so impudently sent you that sort of rubbish, and also to discover the fellow who has used my name". I discovered this tale in a leader on the fallibility of musical judgments in an ancient Manchester Guardian. Much of this was directed at the curious verdicts of Grove — Grove's Dictionary of Music

and Musicians. First published in 1878, which, by an awesome act of will, I shall refrain from calling the "musicologist's Bible". Grove was one of those great Victorian polymaths: a good enough engineer to design cast-iron lighthouses and serve on the board of the company which built the Crystal Palace, while also discovering lost works of Schubert and writing biblical exegesis. But the MG found some of his Dictionary odd, and went on to make a prediction which we're now in the happy position of being able to check. In the 20th century, the leader writer contended, it seemed most unlikely that the Dictionary of Music and Musicians would still allot 58 pages to Mendelssohn, while giving Hector Berlioz only two. The MG assumed that the space given by Grove to an entry represented some kind of judgement on that composer's worth. That wasn't en-

tirely fair. In the 1899 edition, the earliest I have been able to find, some composers get lavish tributes in the text but only perfunctory allotments of space. IT IS said, for instance, of Liszt, "his success is perhaps unequalled and certainly unsurpassed in the history of art"; he still gets only one-tenth of Mendelssohn's ration. Yet when all reservations are made, it still seems extraordinary that Mendelssohn, whom I had always taken to be a very good second division composer, should have commanded more pages than Beethoven (52), Mozart (26) or Haydn (20) — let alone so far outscoring glorious Berlioz and the other composer the MG championed, Gluck, who got four. Brahms got just one, by the way, while Bizet was dismissed in 23 lines). Of all the entries I've looked at, only Schubert (Franz Peter that is, not poor old Franz

Anton) got more generous treatment than Mendelssohn, at 63 pages — and only then because the list of works at the end of his entry was so vastly inflated by the catalogue of his songs. And sure enough, just as the MG forecast, those dispositions are hugely different today. Eric Blom's 1950s edition of Grove gave Beethoven 68 pages, Haydn 61 and Mozart and Liszt 60 apiece. JS Bach — awarded just six pages in the 1899 edition — now rated 28. Mendelssohn at this stage was on 32, level-pegging with Brahms. Berlioz had expanded to 21, though Gluck was still down to 10. But the real vindication of the MG's editorial judgment comes in Stanley Sadie's 1980 revision. Berlioz, on 31, has now overtaken Mendelssohn, who is down to a mere 24, only a nose clear of Gluck, who's on 20. It's a sign of the slump in Mendelssohn in the earlier years of this century that lat-

terday Grove complains that opinion had for a time swung too far against him. His reputation is judged to have suffered at the hands of two groups of people: sentimentalists, and anti-Semites. Both charges are true, the latter especially. When the Germans entered Prague, it is said, the managers of one of the city's concert halls were told to expel a bust of Mendelssohn from their gallery of composers. When the Germans arrived next day to check that the work had been done, they found to their fury that Mendelssohn was still in his place, though another composer had gone. Asked why this was, the workman who had carried out the commission said they couldn't themselves tell one composer from another, so they'd removed the one whom they thought was most obviously Jewish. This proved to be Hitler's favourite, Wagner — as I hope and trust they very well knew.



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Galina Starovoitova

A Russian voice of reason

GALINA Starovoitova, who died aged 62 in a burst of automatic gunfire outside her flat in the historic heart of St Petersburg, is the latest Russian politician to fall victim to assassins. But unlike many of those killed in Russia's new time of troubles, Starovoitova was a long way from the crime-tinged end of the political spectrum. A co-chair of the reformist Democratic Russia party, she was a liberal politician who championed unpopular causes.

While the lower house of the Russian parliament, to which she was most recently elected in 1995, became steadily more nationalist and hardline, Starovoitova remained an advocate of policies born of tolerance and respect for individual rights, challenging such bigots as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and denouncing the anti-semitism that has become common currency among some communists and nationalists.

She became widely known in the later Soviet period while working as an ethnographer. Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost had unleashed long pent-up nationalist sentiment within the multi-ethnic Soviet Union. Starovoitova championed the rights to self-determination of those she considered to have had a raw deal, and became particularly prominent for her support for the Armenians, then fighting to gain sovereignty from Azerbaijan.

In the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, the majority Armenian population had sought self-rule and was facing the threat of forced expulsion in retaliation. Starovoitova travelled to the region with the human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov, with whom she would later work closely in parliament. "I think that a nation's right to self-determination is more important than the idea of state sovereignty," she declared, to the fury of the Azerbaijanis.

Born in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk to a Belarusian father and a Russian mother, Starovoitova graduated from the Leningrad College of Military Engineering in 1966, took an MA in social psychology from Leningrad University in 1971 and in 1980 gained a doctorate in social anthropology from the Institute of Ethnography at the USSR Academy of Sciences, where she worked for 17 years. Her doc-



The people's choice... Galina Starovoitova addressing a pro-democracy rally in Moscow last month

torial thesis, published in 1987, was a study of the Tatars of Leningrad. She also published extensively on anthropological theory, cross-cultural studies, and Caucasian anthropology.

When the first semi-free elections took place for the Congress of People's Deputies, Starovoitova was — to her surprise — nominated by an Armenian research institute in an Armenian constituency and elected in 1989. In the new parliament — whose sessions were broadcast live on television to a fascinated country reeling from the sudden expression of uncensored views — she joined the inter-regional grouping of deputies, a radical force pushing for faster democratisation. She spoke up for parliamentary control to be instituted over the ministries of defence and of the interior, and over the KGB. She was elected to the

human rights commission of the Congress.

In June 1990, while her term in the Congress was still running, Starovoitova gained election to the Russian parliament in a constituency in Leningrad — not long before the city reverted to its pre-revolutionary name of St Petersburg. The following year she was elected a member of the Democratic Russia leadership.

LIKE other leading reformist politicians she was trailed and bugged by the KGB. In 1990 she won an unprecedented libel suit against Pravda, when the former official Soviet newspaper accused her of calling for the forcible overthrow of the government. When the hardline communists pounced in August 1991 to depose Gorbachev, she was high up on a list of those to be arrested. Fortunately Starovoitova was in England at the time — and within hours she was on the air, opposing the coup on the BBC Russian Service. She quickly helped to found an international commission to monitor the state of Gorbachev's health, which the coup plotters alleged was failing.

Starovoitova was far closer to the Russian leader Boris Yeltsin than to Gorbachev and served from August 1991 as his adviser on inter-ethnic issues — at a time when ethnic tensions were emerging in various parts of the Russian Federation. The only woman, and only non-communist, in his immediate circle she was reportedly a strong influence pushing Yeltsin in a democratic direction, but she was gradually eased out of the presidential circle as hardliners were ap-

pointed to key ministries. Yeltsin sacked her in November 1992 for criticising Moscow's backing for the Ossetians against the Ingush in a short but bitter conflict in Russia's North Caucasus. She would later oppose Yeltsin's assault on Chechnya in 1994-5. Out of a job in 1993 as parliament clashed with President Yeltsin, Starovoitova left for the United States. In 1993-4 she was a peace fellow at the Institute of Peace in Washington, followed by a year as a distinguished visiting professor at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island.

In December 1995 Starovoitova returned to the Russian parliament, after being elected in a St Petersburg constituency to the lower house of the State Duma, where she served on the committee on social and religious organisations. In mid-1997,

when the law restoring state control over religious life was being introduced through parliament, she was more active in opposition to it than any other member of the religion committee — apart from the committee chairman. She had a keen eye for the absurdities of such authoritarian proposals.

Starovoitova tried to run for president of the Russian Federation in 1996 but her registration was barred when a court ruled that many of the signatures she had collected were invalid; she had said she would run again in the year 2000. She was also contemplating running for governor of the Leningrad region, which surrounds St Petersburg. She had many friends and supporters abroad, and thanks to her excellent command of English and lucid explanations, she appeared frequently as a commentator on Russian politics, including on the BBC's *Newsnight* programme.

UNLIKE many in Russian politics, Starovoitova was a modest figure who lived relatively simply. She reportedly did not amass the large personal fortune that many politicians acquired thanks to their position. When visitors came to her flat on business she would rustle up some food for them herself in the kitchen while they talked. A great admirer of female politicians in other countries, she was also always conscious of her position as a woman in a male-dominated world. Overwork as a politician led to divorce from her first husband in the early 1980s, but she remarried this year. A son survives her.

"Freedom has one enticing property," she said back in the heady days of 1990. "The more you have of it, the more you want." Russia has remained mired in chaos and poverty, with a self-serving political system that does little for the people. Starovoitova tried to keep alive the hope that flourished at the end of the Soviet era that life could be better.

Felix Corley

Galina Vasilievna Starovoitova, ethnographer and politician, born May 17, 1946; died November 20, 1998

Robin Hall

The folk on Tonight

ROBIN HALL, who has died aged 61, was hailed by fellow singers for his "god-given voice" and was one of the best known figures in British folk music, not least through numerous appearances on BBC television's *Tonight* programme in the early 1960s with his partner Jimmie MacGregor. Together they brought both ballads and Scottish children's street songs — such as *Ye Cammies Shave Yer Granny Off The Bus* and *The Day We Went To Roxburgh O* — to audiences of nine million people at the programme's peak.

This exposure to mass audiences brought recording contracts from Decca and HMV, for whom Hall and MacGregor made several albums in the 1960s. They also had huge success with *Footfall Crazy*, a gently satirical piece about the impact of joining "that terrible football club" and a hit on the radio programme *Children's Favourites*. The Hall-MacGregor *Tonight* performances, along with the skiffle boom, inspired many 1960s teenagers to take up the guitar, notably Ian McEwan, now the leader of one of Scotland's most successful folk groups, the McEwans.

Robin Hall was born into a musical family in Edinburgh. His mother was an opera singer and the family claimed descent from Rob Roy MacGregor and the explorer Mungo Park. Hall studied acting at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dramatic Art in the mid-1950s.

This was the period when the researches and enthusiasm of Hamish Henderson, the late Norman Buchan and others had drawn many young Scots towards folk music rather than pop, and Robin Hall was among them. In 1957 he moved to London where, with his two and a half octave voice, he soon established himself in Soho at clubs run by Ewan MacColl and others. The following year he recorded his first album, *Last Leaves*, accompanied by the songwriter Leon Rosselson.

Hall shared the left-wing ethos which permeated much of the folk scene and was invited to perform at the Soviet-sponsored World Youth Festival in Vienna in 1959, where he met Paul Robeson. At the festival he also encountered the former skiffle group guitarist Jimmie MacGregor,

and on their return to London the pair formed a duo. Although criticised by purist folk song experts for what Billy Connolly once called "campfire music" — heartily strummed chords and rousing choruses — they were an immediate success. Their audiences included young female fans, drawn by Hall's good looks and warm vocals, chanting "We want Robin" — a response not usual at folk concerts.

Hall, who became an active campaigner for CND in the early 1960s, played, broadcast and recorded with the Galliards, a quartet he formed with MacGregor, Shirley Bland and Leon Rosselson on banjo and guitar. Like the American group, the Weavers, the Galliards presented a cosmopolitan range of material, adding songs from Greece and the Caribbean to their Scottish and English repertoire.

After *Tonight* was removed



Hall... 'god-given voice'

from the schedules in 1965 Hall and MacGregor became the hosts of BBC television's *White Heather Club* and made tours to Canada and New Zealand, entertaining the expatriate Scottish communities.

From the mid-1970s Hall developed a new career as a broadcaster with the BBC World Service and Radio Clyde, and as an arts critic. Growing personality clashes with MacGregor, and the changing taste of audiences, brought about the end of their partnership, although there were a few reunion concerts — the last in 1994.

Hall was married twice, to Rosalind Hall and later to Isabel James. He leaves two sons.

Dave Laing

Robin Hall, folk singer, born June 27, 1937; died November 18, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN AN article headed, *Annus horribilis*, about the possible failure or malfunction of electronic devices with the advent of the year 2000, page 10, *Guardian Education*, November 17, we said: "So what is the millennium bug? First, it is really a bug: Bugs are something you catch and that reproduce on their own... Y2K is not quite like that. It is a computer virus." This is quite wrong. A computer virus is programming code designed to hijack a computer's programs, using some vector such as floppy disks or e-mail on a network, to make them perform incorrectly, often disruptively. A bug is a fault in a computer program that causes it to behave in an unexpected manner. This can be due to (among other things) programmer errors, flawed specifications, or because the program encounters a situation not anticipated by the programmers. "The Y2K bug" or "the Y2K problem" or "the millennium bug", as it is called, belongs to the latter category because programmers in the 1970s and 1980s used only two digits, rather than four, to specify years, believing that their programs would be obsolete by the end of the millennium — when that, by the way, the new year can be specified accurately only by using four digits.

AN ARTICLE celebrating Alastair Cooke's career in the eve of his 90th birthday, page 2, G2, November 19, said he would become the only nonagenarian to have his own radio show. Fans of Alan Kelly, who has been presenting *Your Hundred Best Tunes* since 1959, point out that he reached the age of 90 last month.

IN A DIARY item, page 22, November 13, drawing attention to a mistake (in an advertisement) on the front page of the magazine, the Bookseller, we made a similar, but bigger, mistake of our own. We said the magazine's front page included the words: "1176 Adam Smith published *The Wealth of Nations*". The date on the magazine was the correct one, 1776.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the Readers' Editor on 0171 239 9599. Post to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3BR. Fax: 0171 239 9597. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Bob 'Tex' Allen

From cowboys to cocoa

THE movie cowboy Bob "Tex" Allen, who died aged 92, featured in six *Ranger* movies made between 1936 and 1937 for Columbia Studios: *The Unknown Ranger*, *Reckless Ranger*, *The Rangers Step In*, *Law of The Rangers*, *Ranger Courage*, and *The Ranger Steps In*. They were all under an hour in length and most were directed by Spencer Gordon Bennett, known for his cliff-hanging serials. Each picture was reassuringly predictable, with the impeccably honest Allen, in his snow-white stetson and wide smile, riding out to capture law-breakers.

Unfortunately, cheap as they were, they did not bring a profit to the studio, despite Allen's ingenious charm and athletic good looks.

Before becoming Bob "Tex" Allen for the *Ranger* series, he was dubbed Robert Allen by a theatrical agent who thought Theodore Baehr

a most unsuitable name for a potential American screen hero. Going against his father's wishes for him to go into the Baehr import-export business in New York state, the young Theodore, always known as Ted to his friends, left for Hollywood in 1935 after graduating from military college.

ALLEN was one of the few actors to have become a horse opera star, and he made dozens of movies in the 1930s, appearing in nine in 1935 alone, including *Party With Jean Arthur*, *Love Me Forever* with Grace Moore, and Josef von Sternberg's *Criminals and Punishment* as Duke. In *Craig's Wife* (1935), he was the suitor of Rosalind Russell's niece, and was Cary Grant's golfing buddy in Leo McCarey's *The Awful Truth* (1937), prior to taking on his new persona as Bob "Tex" Allen. When the

Ranger series ended, he reverted to being bland Robert Allen in a few movies, before going into real estate in 1940. He returned to the big screen once more in 1966 to play the father of a runaway boy in *Terror in The City*. In 1928, Allen married the actress Evelyn Pierce, whom Florenz Ziegfeld considered a great beauty. They had two children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, so it was appropriate that Allen was last seen as a grandfather in a TV commercial for cocoa. "My father was just as good a person off-screen as he was on," claimed his son Theodore Baehr Jr. He was a naturally kind and gentle.

Ronald Bergan

Bob 'Tex' Allen (Theodore Baehr), actor, born August 9, 1906; died October 9, 1998

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: Lingmoor Fell, the wooded ridge of high ground that neatly separates the often-crowded steep slopes of Great Langdale from the quietude of Little Langdale, seemed an excellent choice for a short November afternoon. First, in Eiterwater, a visit to a favourite artist's studio, crowded with bright Langdale colours, and then, unexpectedly, a conducted tour of the sprawling quarries where they were diamond-cutting a towering wall of rock. From a clearing in

the woods we watched climbers abseiling on a crag behind Chapel Stile, and then tramped up the fell to the summit, just above the extensive slopes of heather that give the hill its name. Lingmoor is an outstanding viewpoint for southern Lakeland, and pre-eminent for its close-up views of the Langdale Pikes and the Conistone fells.

We had been admiring the familiar thrust of the rocky Pikes for some time when, suddenly, topping a ridge, there, just across the Brathay, was

the soaring north-east face of Wetherlam, with its woods and crags seemingly without shouting distance. Lingmoor Fell is the photographers' mountain par excellence, with rugged fells in close-up, mountain tarns, with woodlands or individual trees for foreground, the heather, bracken and juniper for colour, and the beeding quarry walls for dramatic effects. Everybody takes pictures of Blea Tarn from here, but tiny Lingmoor Tarn, hidden in a hollow, is the real gem.

A HARRY GRIFFIN

Birthdays

Prof Colin Adamson-Macdo, electrical engineer, 76; **Zoe Ball**, broadcaster, 28; **Jerry Bock**, composer, 70; **Anne Buras**, former sliding champion, 83; **John Cole**, political commentator, 71; **Michael David-Weill**, banker, 65; **Rob Denmark**, athlete, 30; **Kevin Gallacher**, footballer, 32; **Shane Gould**, Olympic swimmer, 43; **Graham Hearne**, founder, Enterprise Oil, 61; **Sir John Hermon**, former chief constable, RUC,

70; **The Most Rev Patrick Kelly**, Archbishop of Liverpool, 80; **Sir David Lees**, chairman, GKN, 82; **Donald Mayer**, theatre historian, 70; **Krzysztof Penderecki**, composer, 65; **Diana Quick**, actress, 52; **Peter Stanford**, Catholic commentator, 37; **Sir Peter Strawson**, philosopher, 79; **Anthony Sullivan**, rugby league footballer, 30; **Prof John Tarn**, architect, Nigel Tranter, novelist, 88.

Death Notices

THOMAS, George, aged 77, father of Robert George Thom, Contact Care Funeral Services, Swindon 01753 537753.

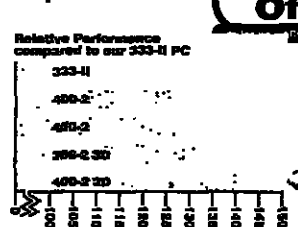
Memorial Services

LORD BARNABURGH OF DRURY LANE, a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of The Lord Barnaburgh of Drury Lane will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey at noon on Thursday 14 January. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 14, The Chapter House, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London SW1P 2PA. Tickets will be posted by 7th January.

HTF please your arrangements telephone 0171 710 4657 or fax 0171 710 4707 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

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FinanceGuardian

Big investors unite against poor corporate governance

Lisa Buckingham

THE pressure for directors to become more accountable and improve the performance of their companies will intensify today with the formation of an alliance between two of the world's most powerful investment groups.

Calpers, the Californian public-sector pension fund manager, has agreed to work with Hermes, which manages the Post Office and British Telecom pension funds, to encourage companies to meet higher standards of performance.

Together the groups control more than £130 billion of investments.

This is the second international shareholder accord for Hermes, which earlier this year established a joint-venture activist fund with Washington-based Lens Investment, one of the most proactive shareholder organisations in the United States.

The investment groups are said to intend to work together to make sure UK company directors meet the

performance demands of their big shareholders.

The agreement between Hermes and Calpers comes as the Government is looking for ways in which professional shareholders can be encouraged to exert more influence on directors — particularly on contentious public opinion issues such as executive pay and performance.

It is the first clear sign that Calpers, which has a reputation for shareholder activism and "naming and shaming", is about to shed the soft-soapy approach to corporate

governance it has adopted in the British market.

Hermes, led by Alastair Ross Goobey, has £36 billion under management and has been at the forefront of corporate governance improvements in the UK. Mr Ross Goobey played a critical role in encouraging directors to reduce the length of their service contracts so that six and seven-figure "payments for failure" became less common.

Neither Calpers — which has about \$30 billion (£18 billion) of its total \$133 billion funds in markets

outside the US — nor Hermes would comment on their alliance yesterday, although an official statement is expected this morning.

The temperature of the corporate governance debate is widely expected to rise as the economic climate becomes tougher and company performance begins to slide.

It is typically at times of corporate stress that weaknesses of boardroom controls are exposed, sometimes resulting in massive losses for shareholders. The series of investigations into corpo-

rate governance standards, which started in the early 1990s with Sir Adrian Cadbury's seminal report, were prompted by the bankruptcies and frauds which emerged as the overheated markets of the late 1980s sharply cooled.

An alliance of such daunting investment forces will be intimidating for UK boardrooms. It could also act as a lightning conductor for the concerns of smaller shareholders, many of whom are reluctant to oppose companies singlehandedly.

Economics Notebook

The world at your fingertips



Victor Keegan

THE World Wide Web is five years old this month. It is difficult to think of any technological improvement that has triggered such change in our lives in such a short time. Goodness knows what will happen in another 10 years.

It is impossible to pinpoint exactly when it all started. But the catalytic point was when the Mosaic "browser" (provided free by America's National Center for Supercomputing Applications) linked up with the World Wide Web (invented at the CERN laboratory in Switzerland). This turned the Internet from a mainly public-sector US academic/military facility into a global archive of information, graphics and sound. It was November 1993 when it all started to fizz.

Suddenly people stopped talking about building an information highway because one had arrived unannounced in the form of a marriage between the web and the Internet with the browser as best man. Bill Gates didn't cotton on until a year later, but that's another story.

The Internet is no longer the preserve of the young and the nerds. It is rapidly approaching critical mass. A survey last week found that people spent more time with their computer than with most other domestic activities including cooking, eating and reading. One in three schoolchildren do their homework electronically (girls more than boys). And the over-60s spend more time on computers than anyone else.

THE way the Internet has turned the world into a global village has been well charted. It is now a universal source of knowledge on any subject and the medium for instant communication through e-mail. You can do live video-conferencing, listen to radio stations from anywhere, download music or create your own web site. Soon there will be an explosion of electronic web commerce.

Less well charted is the dramatic effect on economics. For instance, we have entered an era of digital deflation during which there will be two strong pressures on prices. It is a function of the products of the digital revolution — whether music, films, data, software or whatever — that once the first one has been produced it costs virtually nothing to manufacture and deliver millions more. Instead of diminishing returns to scale as the text books teach us, there will be increasing returns.

Personal computers can keep the intellectual property rights to the product (as Microsoft has with its operating system) you can continue to charge a lot of money. But

it isn't always like that. A rival operating system, Linux, devised by volunteers worldwide can be downloaded free from the net. Netscape, having invested a lot for the first copy of its browser decided to give tens of millions of copies away free to establish market dominance, forcing others to follow.

Second, the Internet will reduce prices by cutting out the middleman. The initial success of companies like Amazon.com selling books via the net points to a future in which virtually any "commodity" product (ie, one you don't need to examine personally before you buy it) can be sold more cheaply through the net. That includes wine, cars, computers, regular shopping, some clothes, consumer durables and almost anything that has a guarantee. In future you will pay the delivery charge not the wholesale and retail margins. High street banks are already disappearing as customers opt for telephone or on-line banks. This process will explode once the need for an intermediary to handle your money is seen to be superfluous.

PA CONSULTING Group reckons that the onset of Web-TV will see today's on-line population expand from 50 million to more than a billion in five years, causing the opening of hitherto closed networks to customers and suppliers.

At the moment, smokestack industries like car manufacturers are holding back because they are afraid of upsetting their lucrative supply chains. But once one company successfully cuts out the middle man the others will have to follow.

Even if you don't buy direct from the manufacturers, you can scour the net for the cheapest price for any car anywhere in the world before buying it at the cheapest outlet. Sixteen per cent of Americans already do. Specialist web sites have facilities to get the best price for you. At the moment this is possible only for the minority who have web access. But that is changing fast. Computers are getting ever stronger and ever cheaper. When net users reach a critical mass of the population they will force fundamental structural changes as the surfing habits of individual consumers establish direct relationships with manufacturers.

Digital deflation is not fully recorded in the official statistics because it takes the statisticians time to find out what is happening even before they try to quantify it.

The scope for digital deflation in Britain is even greater than in the US because the level of UK prices for the same technology is much higher. Last week, Intel, the world's largest manufacturer of semi-conductors, accused the Dixons group of profiteering by charging unnecessarily high prices. Dixons controls 50 per cent of high-street distribution of personal computers through its PC World, Curry's and Dixons outlets. Perhaps they should start cutting prices with a new slogan: "Digital deflation starts here".

Mergers in the air

GRE is up for grabs

Lisa Buckingham
City Editor

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange, the UK's big insurance group, will admit today that it is considering takeover bids which put a price tag of more than \$3 billion on its business.

The statement to the London Stock Exchange is being made in response to weekend reports claiming that its directors had put the entire company up for sale.

GRE was last night attempting to compose a statement confirming its directors are weighing up future options but stopping short of saying any take bids have been made, or that a merchant banking advisor has been appointed to handle takeover approaches or an international auction.

The company would make no comment, but John Robins, the chief executive, has always argued fiercely that GRE should remain independent. Recent corporate actions such as last week's sale of the New Zealand operations and the acquisition of the PPP health-care brand have been designed to help it survive in a global insurance market, where the trend is increasingly towards underwriting behemoths. In the UK market alone, Royal has merged with Sun Alliance and commercial Union tied up with General Accident.

GRE, which is expected to see profits fall by two-thirds this year, is far more exposed than its British rivals to the fortunes of the general insurance market, making it vulnerable to a bid.

One source said it was likely that the investment bank, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, had actually been hired to deal with bid approaches rather than to approach on behalf of the company.

The insurer has said it is carrying out a review of the only part of its business still

to be overhauled — the UK general insurance operation — and cost reductions coupled with new underwriting disciplines will be revealed in February, at the time of its financial results.

France's Axa and Assurances Générale are believed to be interested in the group, which would also fit into the portfolio of Germany's Allianz or the aggressive American player, AIG.

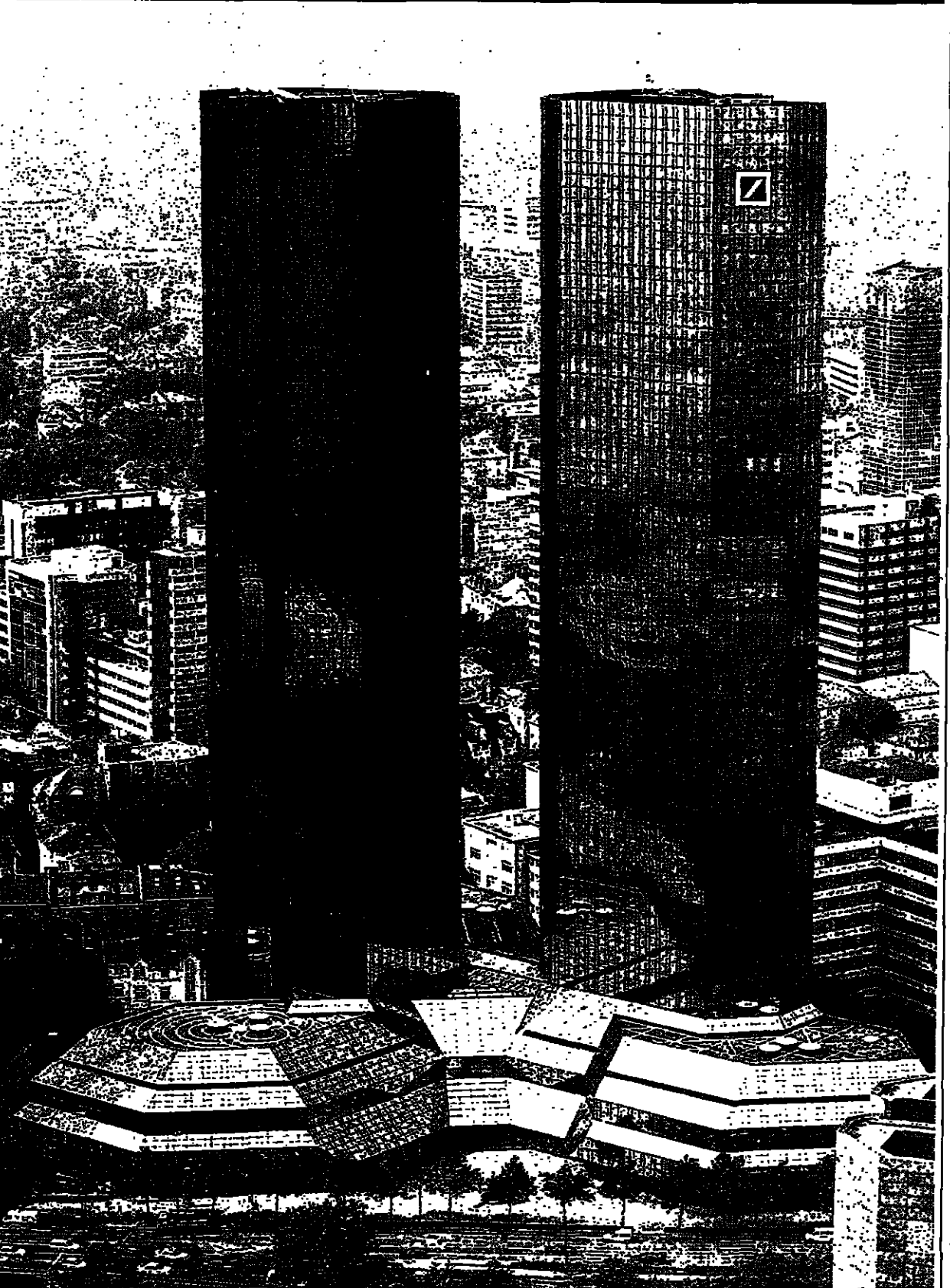
It is also possible that a large bank, such as Lloyds TSB, which is seeking to enhance its insurance and health-care businesses, might table an offer. Other possible contenders are Norwich Union, which retains a large general underwriting business, and even the Royal & Sun Alliance group.

Shares in GRE, which soared beyond 400p on bid speculation earlier this year, closed the week at just 300p, which is only a fraction above the group's net asset value. The profits of the big insurers have plunged this year to reflect appalling general insurance results where premium rates have crashed — most notably in the motor-related sectors.

There have also been some large weather losses, particularly in overseas markets where GRE is more exposed than most of its British rivals. Five months ago the group paid more than \$700 million to buy the American property and casualty business of ING to strengthen its position in the Midwest and north east of the United States, where underwriting results are still relatively robust.

At current share prices — which have yet to start their climb in anticipation of an upturn in the insurance cycle — a bidder could afford to offer a healthy acquisition premium and still buy GRE very cheaply.

Any takeover approach would have to be considered by the company's board, or directors would be in breach of their fiduciary duty to shareholders.



Deutsche moves in on US bankers

SPECULATION is mounting that Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust of the US are on the brink of announcing a \$9 billion merger.

Banking sources in Frankfurt, where Deutsche Bank's twin-towered head-

quarters dominates the skyline, above, said movements in the two companies' share prices on the back of reports of merger talks could force an announcement this week. Others have said that if a

deal is agreed, it will be announced after the US Thanksgiving holiday which begins on Thursday. It would be the largest takeover of a US bank by a foreign institution.

PHOTOGRAPH: HERBERT PROEPFER

Camelot jackpot under threat

Lisa Buckingham

CHRIS Smith, the Culture Secretary, is expected to use a series of speeches over the next fortnight to lay down guidelines for choosing which company will win the next national lottery franchise.

He will stress his determination that there should be competition for the franchise and again float the idea that a non-profit system might raise most money for good causes.

Mr Smith is keen to publicise his thinking, which will make it clear Camelot is by no means certain to retain the licence, as candidates on the shortlist for the five-strong Lottery Commission are interviewed.

Although Mr Smith has stressed that he regards the lottery as a success, he will also television broadcast coinciding with its fourth anniversary to fire a warning shot across the bows of Camelot, which has run it from the start.

Camelot has been dogged by controversy over directors' bonuses and allegations of bribery involving a former shareholder.

The company has also been accused of making excessive profits, although it recently suffered a 12 per cent fall in half-time profits to £24 million. Speaking on GMTV yesterday, Mr Smith said he was convinced that stiff competition between bidders would mean the best deal for good causes. The Government expects to secure the keenest bid if its criteria are clearly set out.

Mr Smith is expected to issue a consultation paper within the next few days which will look at how lottery money will be used to link public libraries into the "national grid for learning" by providing them with Internet terminals. The Culture Secretary is committed to a notion that libraries can become "street-corner universities" to stop the creation of an underclass of people with no access to new technology.

Ministers gang up on Euro bank

Martin Walker in Brussels

EUROPE'S socialist finance ministers last night opened a new front in their guerrilla war against the strict orthodoxy of the new European Central Bank, agreeing that its decision-making must be made more transparent and democratically accountable.

The first practical result of Europe's new left-of-centre political tide, it seemed a modest demand after the earlier fiery calls for interest-rate cuts and ambitious job creation schemes from Ger-

many's new leftist finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine. But the finance ministers are constrained by their fears of destabilising the markets and weakening the new single currency just five weeks before its launch. They dare not be seen to meddle too directly with the bank's independence from political pressures.

"Transparency is important for the Euro-XI to know in detail what the arguments are inside the bank board when it comes to interest rates," said Rudolf Erdinger, the Austrian finance minister who chaired the meeting.

The proposal for more

openness at the bank, whose initial proposal to publish minutes of its board meetings only 16 years after the event appalled European Union governments, came from the British Chancellor, Gordon Brown. His draft statement, The New European Way — Economic Reform and the Framework for Economic and Monetary Union, puts into writing the steady drift of British government policy towards the euro.

Britain is clearly seeking to use the new political caucus of the left as a counterweight to the Euro-XI group of single currency members, from

which Britain is for the moment excluded.

"I'm not sure which has done more to transform the European context, the election victory in Germany or the new British enthusiasm to plunge into Europe," a senior German European Commission official said yesterday. "The coming of the euro is clearly changing everything."

Last night's meeting of the ministers over dinner, like tomorrow's breakfast session of the Euro-XI group, precedes the formal regular gathering of Ecofin, the EU's 15 finance ministers.

Business lobby highlights rift over EMU

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

DEEP divisions within industry over the European single currency are exposed today by over 100 City and business figures declaring their support for British membership.

In a statement, they say that Britain should join the euro as soon as the economic conditions are right. Among the signatories are the chairman and chief executives of a number of top UK companies, including Lord Tugendhat of Abbey National, Tony Hales of Allied Domecq, Sir Richard Evans of British Aerospace, Lord Marshall of British Airways, Gerry Rob-

inson of Granada TV, Martin Correll of WPP Group and Sir Clive Thompson of Rentokil, president of the Confederation of British Industry.

Their statement, published in the Financial Times and endorsed by smaller businesses and trade organisations, will be seen as a counter-blast to the 100 City and business figures who put

their names to a study in the summer warning against membership of the euro.

It provides a foretaste of the referendum campaign the Government has to manage when it decides to join the euro. Although the campaign is not expected before 2001 or 2002, opposing camps are already beginning to organise themselves by raising funds.

George goes before MPs

Laurie Laird

FOLLOWING last week's cut in US interest rates, investors will be anxious to hear the thoughts of the Bank's Governor, Eddie George, when he testifies before the Treasury Select Committee on Thursday.

EMI's results tomorrow will be scrutinised for any signal of the company's merger intentions.

TODAY — Interlakes Allen, Christian Salvesen, Goldsmith, Hewson, LIBERATION, Majesty Wine, Siebe, South State Water, TSI, Flaxler Cambridge, Amos Technology, Chrysler, Ferrari, Grantchester, Quadram, United, Yeaman, TOWERS — Interlakes Anglian, Calhoun, Calorie, Elcos, EMI, Jarvis, Jones, Johnson, Matthey, National Grid, Rail Time Control, Seven Trend, Trilux, Voreplant, Vocals, Vtech, Higgs, Wynne, Fendley, Airbus, Anglo-Bank, Airline Extralinks, Corral, McLeod Russell, WIDENSDAY — Interlakes: Baldwin Industrial, Bristol Water, HPS, DSS Management, RFP International, National Power, NIP, Radstone Technology, Victoria, Plus, Alpacor, Polar, Advanced Power Components, Granada, Tate & Lyle.

News in brief

UK no longer top location

Britain's crown as Europe's best business location has slipped because of labour market reforms, says the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Britain has lost the top slot to the Netherlands, says the EU, but is the second-best and should still be a major destination for investment.

Kinnock defies strikers

European Union Transport Commissioner Neil Kinnock last night defended plans to open rail networks to competition in the face of threatened strike action in six countries.

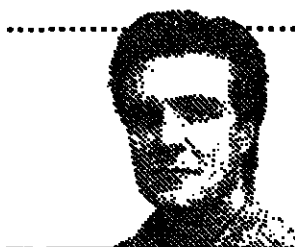
Rail workers in Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece were due to stop work last night to protest at the EC's recommendation that governments should open 5 per cent of their rail sectors to competition.

Trade and PC alert

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson is to intervene in the row over computer retail prices. A DTI official said: "Mr Mandelson is concerned the market may be discouraging a knowledge-driven economy."



Bear market for the Finns



Mark Atkinson

ANNIKKA Salonen stares out from her modest jewellery kiosk at the deserted duty-free centre at Vaalimaa border station, the busiest crossing point for land-based trade and tourism between Russia and Finland, and contemplates another long, slow day.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union at the beginning of the 1990s, Russians have been flooding across the border from nearby St. Petersburg and the surrounding area in increasing numbers to satisfy their voracious appetite for Western consumer goods and swelling the pockets of local retailers in the process. But since August the tides have stopped ringing.

"The Russians who come here just look, they don't buy any more," says Annikka. "If they buy, they buy clothes and food, something more important than gold rings."

The economic shockwaves from Russia's financial collapse three months ago are spreading from the East to the West, like the earlier-than-expected winter, which has cov-

ered Finland in a blanket of snow since early November. As the only European Union member to share a border with Russia, Finland is bearing the brunt of the big bear's recent misfortune.

It's not just the purchasing power of Russian tourists which has been hit by the devaluation of the rouble. Wholesale exports to Russia have also slumped. The number of trucks passing through Vaalimaa border station en route to Russia fell from 11,791 in April to 6,577 in October. In the other direction, the reduction in traffic volumes is equally sharp, with 7,406 trucks arriving at Vaalimaa in October, compared with 15,854 in March.

It's the same story at the nearby port of Kotka, Finland's biggest export harbour and the main gateway to Russia by sea. There, Ari-Pekka Saari, administration director of Stewco Oy, a port operating company, which handles about 25 per cent of Finnish exports, says Russian-bound container traffic has fallen from between 7,000 and 8,000 units a month between January and May to about 2,500 per month now.

"We are hoping it will go up again. We would like to do this business for the next 100 years, but it has been a really bad autumn," Mr Saari says.

At any other time, a fall in business with Russia might not be much of a problem. It accounts for only about 7 per cent of Finnish exports. But, as an export-oriented economy, Finland, which sends

40 per cent of its output abroad, is also heavily exposed to the deflationary economic winds from Asia.

As a result, business confidence has plunged and economic growth is forecast by the Bank of Finland to slow sharply next year to 2.8 per cent, in line with its long-term trend, compared with about 5 per cent this year.

In normal circumstances, with inflation firmly under control at less than 2 per cent, the central bank could be expected to guard against the too severe a slowdown by cutting interest rates, just as the Bank of England's monetary policy committee has done at a similar stage of the UK's economic cycle.

But Finland's hands are tied by its decision to join the euro. The monetary authorities are unprepared. Matti Vanhala, governor of the central bank in Helsinki, says the economic situation is "quite good" and could have been much worse had it not been for the protection offered from financial market turbulence by Finland's commitment to the euro.

WHILE other Nordic currencies, such as the Swedish krona and Norwegian krone, have been buffeted by the markets in recent months, the Finnish markka has seen a rock of stability.

"It was one of these considerations we always had in mind when we decided to join," Mr Vanhala says. Crit-

ics of EMU focus on the dangers of countries being unable to use interest rates to respond independently to specific shocks to their economies, but they often fail to recognise the problem of small currencies being destabilised by capital flows unrelated to economic fundamentals, he says.

However, the new economic situation is not free from danger. Finland has a history of inflation to rival the UK's. After six years of export-led growth, domestic demand, dominated by sectors with low productivity growth, may now take up the running.

So far, responsible collective bargaining has kept costs under control. Sampo Pinnmaa, economic policy adviser at the Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers, says price competitiveness in Finland is currently about 30 per cent above the OECD average. But with unemployment falling, and staff shortages emerging in some sectors, unions are starting to mutter about wanting a bigger slice of the cake.

In the past, Finland, like the UK, has been able to devalue to escape a situation where its costs become internationally uncompetitive. That route will not now be open and wages and jobs may have to take the strain. The impending slowdown may come to be seen as a blessing in disguise if it keeps the threat of excessive wage demands in check.

Inside the euro-zone, there are also worries about Finn-

ish exports becoming uncompetitive if the euro is too strong, particularly vis-à-vis the Swedish krona and British pound, both of which remain outside.

And with industry dominated by three sectors — paper and pulp, metal products and machinery, and hi-tech electronics (in the form of mobile phone manufacturer Nokia) — Finland is especially vulnerable to industry-specific shocks which a more broadly-based economy might be able to withstand. What happens if, for example, mobile phones are proven to cause cancer?

THREE potential difficulties are not what is worrying the businessmen of Lappeenranta, about an hour north of Vaalimaa. Their thoughts remain focused on the more immediate problem of the loss of business from the Russian crisis.

The general mood is, however, one of cheerful resignation rather than despair. After decades of trading with Russia, they are used to the volatile business climate which governs East-West relations.

Seated around the table at the local chamber of commerce, the managing director Jukka Pesu, Timo Huttunen, director of the Huttunen Transport Company, banker Olli-Pekka Tuokola and Hannu Lahtinen, export manager of a roof tile company, amuse themselves by swap-

ping anecdotes about their experiences. Mr Huttunen recounts that the biggest importer of televisions in Russia in 1995 was an association of the blind. Mr Lahtinen that when he worked in St Petersburg you could buy Finnish beer through an orphanage. Both seams were apparently designed to avoid customs duties.

Mr Tuokola is frequently approached by Russians wanting a safe haven for their savings. Among the more colourful customers wanting to open an account were three suspicious-looking men in dark suits. Forced though he was to turn them down, Mr Tuokola enjoyed dealing with their beautiful blond interpreter.

A few months back the authorities were forced to intervene when Russian prostitutes set up a lucrative business at one of the roadside motels. Finnish customs say there was a 25 per cent rise in drug offences last year, with serious offences tripling.

Customs Inspector Juhani Kuntti says the black market trade in amphetamines is booming, although the most common currency for smugglers is cigarettes and vodka, which can be sold by Russians on the Finnish side of the border for a fat profit.

Mr Pesu says there is no way of knowing whether the money the Russians spend is derived from illegal activities. The members of his chamber just take it, no questions asked. This winter they will need all they can get.

The Euro zone may dissolve Africa's colonial chains

DEBATE/Samir Amin and Victoria Brittain on an unwanted legacy of convergence

FOR economists in West Africa the euro is increasingly seen as a nightmare for the fragile economies of the franc zone, tied into a strong currency and in thrall to the technicians of European social democracy who seem to have abandoned the political use of monetary policy.

From January 1, 1999, the 250 million people of the franc zone will be even further distanced from control over their affairs than in the 30 post-colonial years during which Paris has controlled exchange rates through the mechanism created in 1939. There are 14 west and central countries in the zone, which includes the Comoros Islands.

Some 250 African economists met earlier this month in the Senegalese capital of Dakar to debate the likely impact of the euro on the franc zone: the attitude of other European partner states to France's large family; and the possibility of another devastating being forced upon countries in the franc zone.

The critical question posed by the economists was that of establishing national currencies. As one official from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa put it, at last the taboo issue is now firmly on the agenda.

The Dakar meeting was a rare political phenomenon bringing together two major UN bodies, the ECA and the UN Development Programme — concerned with Africa — and former ministers, bankers and academics from across the continent.

The debates were based on detailed papers of analysis or experience. The organisers, from the Dakar-based social and economic research body, Codesria, had the financial support of ECA and UNDP, which have been trying for several years to move African economic and social debate forward.

For 20 years or more the power of the World Bank in

Africa has been its ability to instill the conviction that there is no alternative to its vision. One of the World Bank's African economists, Celestine Monga, made a strong case for getting out of the franc zone now. Speaking in a personal capacity, he outlined how the franc zone stops its economies developing.

As an admirer of the market, Mr Monga's criticisms were in part based on the price of transactions which must go through the French Central Bank.

But the fundamental point on which he and many others spoke most strongly was the question of why they should give up control of monetary policy. The debates of the 1960s were revisited as speakers from Guinea and Tunisia — which opted at independence not to join the franc zone — and from Ghana, which opted out of the British West African Currency Board, described the consequences of choices made in a different era.

There was palpable envy of the Tunisian economists' description of their lack of control over the euro as they already have a sensitive monitoring of a basket of currencies to fix their exchange rate.

The impact of globalisation on the continent is the primary, which includes all of Africa, can only be mitigated by a reinforcement of regionalisation. Many delegates spoke of a return to pan-Africanism and of the need to re-examine the question of development and the cancellation of debt as the central concerns for Africa's fragile economies.

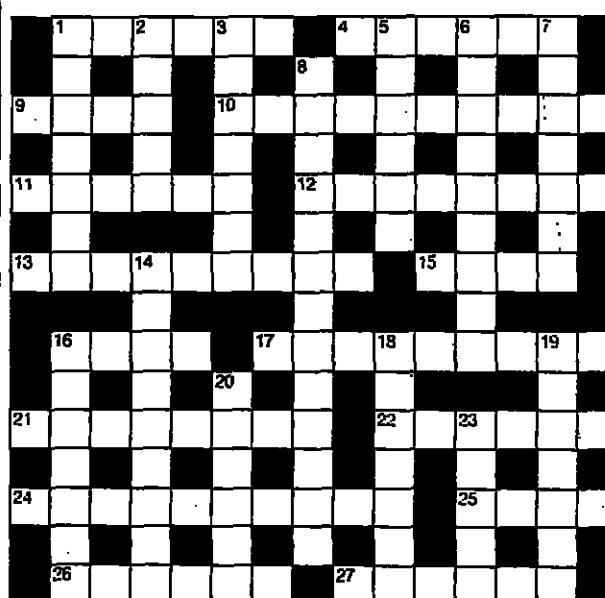
Codesria has used the question of the euro to challenge every West African state to rethink its responses to the probable scenario of another externally imposed devaluation, with increasingly catastrophic consequences.

National currencies with regional arrangements — including regional monetary arrangements between countries belonging to the franc zone as well as with European partners, and not exclusively France, are the only way to progress from the stagnation and underdevelopment which is still the region's curse.

Professor Samir Amin is Director of the Third World Forum in Dakar.

Guardian Crossword No 21,439

Set by Rufus



Across

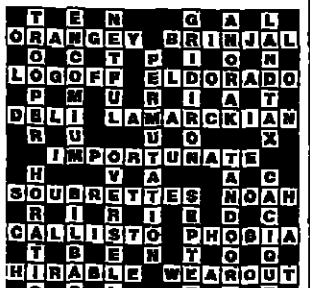
- 1 Contract, perhaps, for engineering work (6)
- 4 Family led out from fire (6)
- 9 A melody recalled in opera (4)
- 10 Circular tours? (5,5)
- 11 She shows still in carving ham (6)
- 12 When alone, get changed and stretch out (8)
- 13 It could be ground where games are finely balanced (5-4)
- 15 Erotic reply to proposal returned, a case for a kiss (4)
- 16 Lincoln has one of these hostilities (4)
- 17 Dismiss class mischief-maker (9)
- 21,22 Off-putting manoeuvre (8,6)
- 24 Worried speculator transfers shares (7,3)
- 25 Quiet, on edge and rather demure (4)
- 26 Puts pressure on the men who sail in a ship (6)
- 27 Provocative article in Communist paper (3,3)

Down

- 1 Agreement lawyers attain (7)
- 2 Spilling a pint — clumsy! (5)
- 3 A beggar sorting out contents of bins (7)
- 5 Such games will never be played out (6)
- 6 It's essential, if you want to speak French (2,7)
- 7 Pay them when in distress, showing compassion (7)
- 8 We don't know what to make of these unusual stage entrances (5,6,2)
- 14 Performer at the Windmill? (3,6)
- 16 The opposite of sun bonnets? (7)
- 18 Give one the right name? (7)
- 19 Driving a point home, Newton is out of order (7)
- 20 Big wave producing damage in front of ship (6)
- 23 Such a saucy prank! (5)

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,432
This week's winners of a Collins English Millennium Dictionary are Alison Hayes of London E16, Ian Ray of Lewes, East Sussex, Rick Cornall of High Barnet, Hertfordshire, Patricia Troop of Petersfield, Hampshire, and John and Sue Newton of Bockham, Kent.

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 40.0% of the paper in this newspaper in 1997.

Charlotte Denny on the benefits system

What are contributory benefits?
Under Beveridge's original plan for the welfare state, qualification for benefits such as pensions or unemployment support would depend on the recipient having made contributions through the National Insurance system. Benefits were universally available to all those who had made sufficient contributions. However, over the last decade, the contributory principle has been eroded.

How?
First, the value of contributory benefits has fallen. Most notably, the decision to index the

state pension to prices rather than average earnings has resulted in the group of elderly people who rely upon it as their sole income, gradually falling behind the living standards of the working population. Second, the length of time people can stay on other key contributory benefits has been cut. Entitlement to non-means-tested unemployment benefit was cut to six months when the Job Seekers Allowance was introduced in October 1996.

Last week, Labour announced that widows' benefit (henceforth also to be paid to widowers) would only be paid for six months.

What happens then?
People will have to apply for means-tested Income Support. Means-tested benefits have been around since the beginnings of the welfare state — when it was called supplementary benefit — but played a smaller role. Beveridge, like Frank Field today, believed that the means-tested discouraged thrift and made it harder for people to return to work: the poverty trap.

So why is Labour in favour of means-testing?
It does ensure welfare spending is more closely targeted to the poor. Labour seems to be cut-

ting back on universalism because it sees it as a transfer to the middle classes and the rich. The Government would prefer the welfare system to transfer resources from rich to poor. The next target is bound to be child benefit which may be taxed for higher income earners.

Doesn't that make sense?
It gives the Government a headache with one of its other key objectives, though — improving the incentives to work. As people's income from employment rises, their benefit income is reduced, which means people face high effective marginal taxes.

What does that mean?
For every extra pound they earn, they lose a large proportion of it in lower benefit payments. It is an obvious disincentive to take on longer hours or to move from part-time to full-time work.

What is the solution?
You can make the taper, or the rate at which benefit is withdrawn, less steep. But that pulls more people into the poverty trap.

There is a fundamental contradiction between the Government's twin objectives — redistribution and improving work incentives — which it has not solved.

Corporate drinks all round — and you're paying

Worm's eye
Dan Atkinson

THE international effort to stave off recession and create more jobs is getting off to a cracking start. Yesterday brought two excellent pieces of news for all those keen to lead against the slump.

First, we heard that a deal is close whereby the German car-maker BMW will agree to keep the Longbridge plant in business in return for a sweeter from the British taxpayer.

Then came the even more

exciting report that Britain is to safeguard jobs in the United States by spending \$40 million on spare parts it does not need for the Trident nuclear missile.

You may, at this point, be tempted to echo the cry of every exasperated parent who has discovered the children's bedroom windows wide open while the radiators are full on: "We're heating the whole bloody street." But you would be wrong. It is not only the hard-pressed taxpayers of Great Britain who are riding to the rescue of the international capitalist system.

The grandest of illusions of the last few years has disintegrated during 1998.

Only a few months ago, the idea was still being pushed around that "global" business had somehow outgrown the redundant, fuddy-duddy nation state.

Not any longer. As markets have collapsed around the world the air has been thick with screams of panic from these "independent" corporations demanding somebody — usually governments — do something.

And they are. Boondoggles of various shapes and sizes are being tossed to a financial interest by the long-suffering taxpayers of the West. There is the Eurofighter, the obsolete Airbus A3XX and Neil Kinnock's trans-European express trains.

There are other goodies too: the planned softer rules of insolvency in Britain, the scheme to force-feed the public with digital television by switching off the ordinary sort and driving pensioners on to the stock market in search of pensions.

Anything that will help stave off the inevitable wipe-out in asset values.

You might think these measures doomed in the long run to disaster. And you would be right. But, as they say in the City, the long term is made up of a series of short terms.

The party may be over but someone has just been volunteered to pay for a last round of drinks. You.

Indicators

TODAY — European finance ministers meet
TOMORROW — US: Durable Goods Orders (Oct)
US: GDP — Preliminary (Q3)
WEDNESDAY — OPEC: Oil Ministers Meeting (Vienna)
UK: Trade in Goods (Oct/Sept)
FR: CPI (Oct, final)
US: Personal Income and Consumption (Oct)

THURSDAY — US: Thanksgiving Holiday (Financial markets closed)
UK: Treasury Select Committee
UK: CBI Monthly Trends Survey (Nov)
JPI: Industrial Production (Oct, prelim)
JPI: Consumer Prices (Oct)
FRIDAY — US: Unemployment Rate (Oct)
JPI: Consumer Price Index (Oct)
Source: HSBC Markets

Tourist rates — bank sells

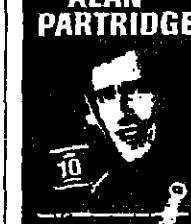
Australia 2.51	Germany 2.7227	Malaysia 6.336	Singapore 2.65
Austria 18.09	Greece 456.22	Malta 0.51	South Africa 9.14
Belgium 56.20	Hong Kong 12.51	Netherlands 3.0595	Spain 230.15
Canada 2.49	India 70.777	New Zealand 2.99	Sweden 13.12
Cyprus 0.80	Ireland 1.0873	Norway 12.14	Switzerland 2.24
Denmark 10.40	Israel 6.948	Portugal 276.66	Turkey 476.170
Finland 8.26	Italy 2.709	Saudi Arabia 6.12	USA 1.76172
France 9.10			

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PARTING

All in a row... not a hint of water as a clutch of the 1,204 entrants to the British Indoor Rowing Championship take the strain on 70 machines in Reading. The four-times Olympic champion Steve Redgrave won the men's 30-39 category, completing 2,000 metres in 5min 51sec

Photograph by
Tom Jenkins

Warming up with cricket's morning glory SCREEN

Martin
Kelner

RISEING at 5.30 on a November morning when the sparrows are still tucked up in their nice warm nests and the ice lies an inch thick on the car in the drive is not, I can tell you from bitter personal experience, to be recommended.

For me there is little that could make the practice palatable or even palatable, short, perhaps, of a dig in the ribs from Meryl Streep to tell me my large espresso and warm croissant are ready.

When there is a Test match going on over the other side of

So included do you feel that you find yourself somewhat embarrassingly using the commentators' nicknames

the world, however, and I know Test Match Special awaits on the car radio, I am inclined to leap out of bed with a sense of purpose and even the trace of a smile.

My instinct tells me to spurn Test Match Special. The costliness, the blackness and the jolly japes surely belong alongside warm beer and rosy-cheeked policemen in that mythical golden age John Major once conjured up.

troubling tea-break entertainment in Brisbane, which involved one woman running round the ground for no stated purpose, pursued by 10 men. Thommo, as resident expert on arcane Australian entertainments, was asked to take centre stage to suggest that the spectacle of 10 men chasing a woman around a cricket ground was a perfectly proper one to keep a crowd of Australians happy.

"I might get my running shoes on myself tomorrow and join them," said Thommo. "That should make her move a bit faster," countered Agnew. Agnew so included do you feel in TMS that you find yourself somewhat embarrassingly using the commentators' nicknames

When Christopher Martin-Jenkins described Brisbane's extraordinary architectural mix — "red-brick factories with flat roofs, skyscrapers and there, in amongst them, a building that seems to have come straight out of a Walt Disney fairy-tale, all grey brick and gothic turrets" — and later I watched Sky's coverage which included a little Brisbane travelogue, I felt I had seen it all already.

Talk Radio will have to go some to match this quality if they intend to compete with the BBC in radio sport. As a first step they have provided a bolt-hole for Geoff Boycott, who has become such a pariah since his conviction for assault was upheld that he managed only two newspaper interviews and five appearances on radio and television last week.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	33	0	0	0	0	33
Wales	2	0	0	1	0	12
Scotland	2	0	0	1	0	12
France	2	0	0	1	0	12

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	1	0	0	0	0
Wales	1	0	0	0	0
France	1	0	0	0	0

ALLIED DUNBAR

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	0	0
France	1	0	0	0	0

LEICESTER

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	0	0
France	1	0	0	0	0

LEICESTER

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	0	0
France	1	0	0	0	0

LEICESTER

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Scotland	1	0	0	0	0
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Scotland	1	0	0	0	0
France	1	0	0	0	0

RUGBY UNION

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	0	0
France	1	0	0	0	0

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
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LEICESTER

Premiership



The Wright stuff... Aston Villa's wing-back slides across to tackle Liverpool's hat-trick scorer Robbie Fowler

PHOTOGRAPH: DAN CHUNG

Aston Villa 2 Liverpool 4

Collymore compounds the folly

David Lacey

ASTON VILLA are beginning to look like the man who built his house on sand. If the challenge of John Gregory's team for the championship is to amount to anything more than a nine-week wonder they will surely have to re-dig their foundations.

They also need to reassess the true worth to the side of Stan Collymore, whose outrageous foul on Liverpool's Steve Harkness at Villa Park on Saturday and subsequent second yellow card and dismissal for a retaliatory shove on Michael Owen, who had tackled him knee-high, confirmed the maverick tendencies of this talented but wayward player.

The Football Association could charge Collymore with misconduct after studying the video replay of an over-the-top lunge which saw Harkness carried off with damaged knee ligaments after 11 minutes. Happily the incident did not spoil the Premiership's most entertaining spectacle of the season so far, helped, it must be said, by mutually inept defending.

The masterful finishing of Robbie Fowler, who announced his return to full form and fitness with a hat-trick, dominated an exhilarating exhibition of attacking football from both teams and inspired Liverpool to the victory which ended the league leaders' 12-match unbeaten Premiership record.

A sharp header which owed everything to anticipation and positioning, a shot potted with a pool hustler's assurance and a first touch which made his third goal a formality confirmed Fowler as one of the country's most dangerous strikers.

Yet Villa, despite conceding

two goals in the first six minutes, might have saved or even won the match had the skill and vision of Paul Merson been backed by a return to the defending which saw them let in a similar number in their first nine league games.

"Strikers win championships," Gregory after his defeat after Villa forced an efficient scoreless draw at West Ham five weeks earlier. Since then the truth of those words has, quite literally, been brought home to him. His team have now conceded nine goals in three matches at Villa Park.

Celtic Vigo, whose 3-1 win ended Villa's interest in the UEFA Cup, first exposed a flaw in Gregory's defence and here Paul Ince caught it ball-watching at a corner as he headed past Michael Oakes after two minutes. Liverpool, like Villa, then proceeded to tear Villa's cover to ribbons with a quality of passing and movement which bemused Ugo Ehiogu and preyed on the inexperience of the 17-year-old wonder-kind Gareth Barry.

Yet the problem for Villa lay equally in midfield where, without the suspended Ian Taylor, they simply could not cope. Villa's cross, only for the referee Peter Jones did not award a second penalty.

This tendency hardly compared to the yellow card shown to Collymore after his challenge on Harkness which saw him suspended for two games. The pair had a history of animosity going back to Liverpool's previous visit here in February when Collymore marked Gregory's arrival as manager by scoring twice against his former teammates in a 2-1 win.

After that match, Collymore accused Harkness of racial abuse. Harkness told a Sunday newspaper that Collymore had threatened to break his leg and three hours of attempted mediation at the players' union failed to get the players even to shake hands.

"I think there was an element of grudge," Collymore admitted later. "Col-

lymore was probably lucky to stay on, in all honesty." Collymore insisted his tackle had had nothing to do with the previous match. "If it had been anyone else I would have gone for the ball in exactly the same way," he said.

Gérard Houllier, reluctant to allow this overshadow the first signs of a Liverpool revival since he assumed sole charge, was not prepared to condemn Collymore. "I'm sure he will regret it himself," he added. Had Graeme Souness still been a member of the opposition Collymore might have regretted being allowed to stay around until the Owen incident brought him a second booking.

A one-match ban means he will miss Villa's next home game, against Manchester United, in a fortnight. Four days later they travel to Chelsea and Arsenal are at Villa Park the following Saturday. By then the championship should have a better idea of what the pre-Christmas period, and their manager, are made of.

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Gullit takes a stand to hold Shearer

Michael Walker

NEWCASTLE United's plan to increase the capacity at St James' Park has been in the hands of the transfer market, but he repeated yesterday that he will not put Alan Shearer up for sale.

Gullit spent Friday afternoon in boardroom discussions with his chairman Freddie Shepherd and vice-chairman Douglas Hall and has been made aware of how little money he has at his disposal for new players.

But the manager, preparing for tonight's trip to Everton, confirmed that selling Shearer to raise funds is not an option he is considering. "I would not sell Alan Shearer," Gullit repeated. "But it depends on the player. I would not sell Alan Shearer to raise money. The situation a couple of months ago was that he didn't want to leave and I'm working on that basis. The last time we spoke he said he wanted to stay. He's a great player but we can't depend on one player."

There was renewed Shearer speculation yesterday even though the England striker is one of only four Newcastle players that Gullit has said publicly that he wants to keep. The others are Shay Given, Robert Lee and David Batty, although Gullit is keen for Steve Howey and Keith Gillespie to prove that they have a future on Tyneside.

Obviously Gullit needs to add to that nucleus but his spending power is severely limited by Newcastle's stadium expansion. St James' Park's capacity will be increased by 15,000 to 51,000 within two years by adding

ters to two sides of the ground at a cost of £40 million.

Newcastle have had to borrow that sum from Barclays Bank and although the repayments do not begin until 2000 — six annual payments of approximately £7 million will follow — Gullit's ability to compete for top players has been totally undermined.

This led to Friday afternoon's board meeting. "Yes, there was a meeting," Gullit said. "But I talk to the board all the time. They are doing their best. I think we're pushing in the same way."

"I knew in the beginning that I would have to wait for a short time before money became available because there is a lot of money being invested in the new stand. But if we have a nice new stand and the team is not doing well, what is the point?"

As he said, Gullit thinks the board are doing everything they can but he has described the £7 million he has been given permission to spend as "not enough". There was also a hint that at some time soon Gullit will definitely want to see some fresh funds, and if money is not forthcoming there may be a confrontation. "I can't do the job without the tools. If I don't have these tools it is going to be difficult and frustrating, not just for me but for the club itself. We're going to have a good stand but we need to have a good team."

One piece of heartening financial news for Newcastle as they prepare to face Everton at Goodison Park is that the accounts for the year 1997-8 will show an operating profit of £10.8 million. Gullit, however, needs twice that amount.

Sheffield Wed 3 Manchester United 1

Keane fails to provide a lead

Michael Walker

THERE was a moment 10 minutes from the end of Sunday's trip to Everton, when Wigan, the Dutch international midfielder, dispossessed Roy Keane on the edge of the Manchester United area, ran on unchecked and forced Peter Schmeichel into his third fingertip save of the second half.

The incident crystallised the reason why Wednesday won and United lost this game. Eight minutes earlier, Nicolas Alexanderson had scored his second goal, and Wednesday's third, and two minutes after Jonk's effort Keane was replaced by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the United captain throwing away the armband dismissively when informed of his substitution.

Jonk's influence had exceeded Keane's since the Dutchman's 55th minute goal — his first since his £2.5 million summer arrival — and his increasing contribution served as both a lesson and a warning to United.

On Wednesday night in the Nou Camp, United can afford to have one of Barcelona's many orange men exerting similar control over Keane, United's most important player, in the manner of Jonk here.

Then again, if Schmeichel throws one into his own net the way he did with Alexanderson's opener, and the rest of United under-achieve as they did in the second half, Keane's performance will be an irrelevance.

"Unrecognisable and unacceptable" was the crimson Alex Ferguson's assessment of his side. "This was not on the agenda and you wonder whether we're a big-game team now because on Wednesday night they will probably excel."

And yet for the first 45 minutes, while not exciting, United were comfortably dominant. Andy Cole — one chance, one goal Mr Hoddle — equalised on the half hour,

drilling the ball past his former Newcastle team-mate Pavel Srnicek.

Shortly after, when Denis Irwin was emphatically upended by Alexanderson, no one in Wednesday's first full house of the season doubted it was a penalty except the referee David Elleray.

Danny Wilson called it "a legitimate penalty," Ferguson thought it was inhuman. Had it been awarded and converted, then United would surely have won. Even in the seven minutes between it and half-time, Jaap Stam had a strong try-saving after a vigorous 40-yard charge upfield and Cole slightly hampered Dwight Yorke when Yorke was well placed. It was an indication that the game at that stage was being played exclusively in the Wednesday half but that changed after the interval.

Petter Rudi and Alexanderson won the flank battle with Jesper Blomqvist and David Beckham, and both the Norwegian and the Swede were involved in the patient creation of Jonk's goal. Schmeichel saved bravely at the feet of Andy Booth but the ball fell nicely for Jonk to stroke in.

Schmeichel then tapped away an attempted cross by Alexanderson and Carbone ballooned a volley over when free in the box before Alexanderson coolly rounded Schmeichel for the decisive third.

Typically, being a Scandinavian, Alexanderson reasoned that a United fan as a boy and that Norman Whiteside was his hero. On Saturday he was Wednesday's and, given that in their last victory seven games and eight weeks ago Lee Briscoe scored the winner against Arsenal, it seems fair to deduce that Wednesday like their heroes to be unlikely lads.

Chelsea are next for them while for United the immediate future is Spanish. They will hope it is not orange as well.

Tottenham Hotspur 2 Nottingham Forest 0

Ginola leaves Forest fuming

Jon Brodwin

IT IS a good job David Ginola did not see fit to apologise for his part in Steve Stone's sending-off. When Dave Bassett is around there is no doubt where olive branches will be deposited.

In any case Ginola's diplomatic efforts appeared to be directed elsewhere. Consigned to the bench for the previous match at Arsenal, he looked determined to convince George Graham that his understanding of regular application extends beyond shampoo.

That the French midfielder was primarily responsible for Tottenham's victory was scarcely in dispute. Bassett, though, felt he achieved it more by foul means than fair. "My players are saying Ginola was pushing Steve, he pushed him off and Ginola just collapsed," the Forest manager said of the incident which earned Stone a second yellow card in the 18th minute with the game goalless.

Stone, presumably not in a show of solidarity for Ginola's anti-landmine campaign, mockingly took a seat on the turf beside him.

"If Stone had hit him or kicked him from behind I'd have no complaints," said Bassett. "But a little bit of tugging and pulling? It happens all the time."

"The players are fuming; they're incensed. I've never seen them like that in the 18 months I've been here. They're calling Ginola... the obvious word."

Talented is probably not what he had in mind. Forest's reserve goalkeeper Mark Crossley seemed ready to allow Ginola a closer look at

his new gloves as he left the field before the Frenchman was ushered away by his teammates.

If video evidence backs up their players' view, Forest will appeal against the dismissal. A re-run seemed to show that Stone pushed Ginola in the chest, though Bassett said even Tottenham's Colin Calderwood pleaded with the referee Stephen Lodge not to send off Stone.

"What would have been the honourable thing is for Ginola to get off his arse and say to the ref 'Leave it out, it's not the end of the world,'" Bassett said. "What happened to the good old English game where you could tackle one another? It's more like ballet now and Morris dancing."

Forest's defenders were left in such a spin by Ginola that they would probably have struggled to differentiate between the two. It was Ginola's run and cross which provided Chris Armstrong with the opening goal in the 59th minute and when Scot Gemmill became the third Forest player to be booked for fouling the Frenchman, Allan Nielsen headed in Darren Anderton's free-kick 10 minutes later.

Graham, though, seemed less than delighted with the performance against a team who have not won in the league since August. "There's a lot of improving to be done," he warned ominously.

Even for Ginola? "David's got so much talent but he's got to get involved more," Graham said. "He delivered some excellent crosses, and with the centre-forwards we've got we'll thrive on that. But we've just got to get an end product. I think he can get more goals himself and more assists."

Leicester City 2 Chelsea 4

Four-goal Chelsea move into the champion class

Russell Thomas on how Gianluca Vialli's players are working their way upwards

"MY EYES don't deceive," declared Martin O'Neill, smarting at the perceived injustice of it all. What a joke Scoreline! screamed Leicester's sports paper. But English football had better believe the outcome at Filbert Street on the day that Chelsea flexed their muscles as the top three faltered.

It was appropriate Gianluca Vialli sweated slightly in the press lounge, even if Chelsea's manager had not played a single minute of an exhausting and exhilarating contest. "Their commitment was fantastic," said Vialli, and he was not describing a Leicester side who stretched every sinew to counter-balance superior class.

Chelsea are in this position of high promise not

merely because of personnel rotation but also through perspiration on the training ground. That is how his team played "out of their skins for 95 minutes" on Saturday. And that is why Vialli approaches a potentially critical December, highlighted by De Gea's reflexes early on, with calm confidence.

Top by Christmas? Vialli was asked. He smiled and shrugged the guesswork aside but made one confident prediction about next month, when Chelsea play eight Premiership and cup games. "We work so hard in training, we can cope with that. The players realise the more they work, the better they play, especially in the last 20 minutes."

Chelsea created a host of

chances here in that period as Leicester's endeavours took their toll. Gianfranco Zola shot home with aplomb in injury-time but neither this, nor his freak opening goal, were the principal foundations of success in his view.

In the end, Muzzy Izset's goal and Steve Guppy's strike, beautifully curled into the far corner, were poor reward for such toil by a team in which Matt Elliott was a more generous striker in the absence of Emile Heskey and Tony Cottee.

Vialli was sympathetic, to a point. "Maybe we were just a little bit luckier than them. And clinical when we had opportunity to score." Christmas may well come early for Chelsea. Aston Villa's rearranged visit on December 9, with United and Arsenal diverted by Europe that night, might bring Stamford Bridge the gift of the leadership.



Zola... on the double

Leeds United 4 Charlton Athletic 1

Third-best man O'Leary and his starry-eyed scout troop keep the chairman content

Jeremy Alexander

IT TAKES a bold or bright chairman to back an untried manager, which is probably why the same old names crop up whenever there is a vacancy, names that are available because they have failed. Peter Ridsdale of Leeds is a lucky chairman, so far.

For a month he tried not to appoint David O'Leary. Having failed to hang on to George Graham, then to prise

Martin O'Neill away from Leicester, he did his best to make O'Leary feel he was the only man for the job. And O'Leary may prove him right.

In virtual parallel the new manager is backing untried players, reaping the legacy of Howard Wilkinson's youth set-up and the rub-off from two years working with Graham. "I had a wonderful manager, who treated me as an equal, and I had a chance to develop the kids," he said after they had helped him to a

third successive league victory. "I kept pushing George to put them in. Now I'm enjoying being myself." While he would like to buy — "but only quality" — they are reducing the urgency.

Jonathan Woodgate, 18, is established in defence in a 3-4-3 system not unlike West Ham's. Harry Kewell, 20, played in the Berkovic role, just behind the front two and sometimes called the hole. On Saturday, as Charlton lost the plot, it became a chasm, from

which he made hay, set up the second and third goals and scored the fourth.

Lee Bowyer, 21, taken from Charlton for £2.6 million, spiced his midfield display beside the rejuvenated David Hopkin with a gratuitous late booking, his seventh this season. "He's a headless chicken at times," said O'Leary, and that was beforehand. But even the headless come home to roost. By the immutable law of the ex he scored.

As for Alan Smith, 19 last

month, the magic is wearing off. The previous week at Anfield he scored with his first senior touch. A substitute again, he had three times before capping the game's sharpest move with the third goal. Clyde Wijnhard had laid on the first for Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, prodding an intended shot to him as he lost his footing. Soap boots are not meant for football.

Charlton showed little of the organisation that has served them so well. Paul

Mortimer, sitting down with the Joneses, came off the bench to make it 2-1, only for Smith to make it 3-1 a minute later. Alan Curtisley was "disappointed because it didn't feel like a right thumping." If Leeds had taken all their chances it would have felt a good deal worse.

He has done wonders, though, and still in his first managerial job after seven seasons. If O'Leary stays as long, Ridsdale may look back on his luck as wisdom.

JPL 100.150

Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer



Their kit don't fit
No. 55 Glenn Hoddle

Far be it from us to accuse the England coach of getting himself into a dressing-room-of-potatoes situation, but the evidence does suggest that he's being tightly marked in the midfield area.



The Unlikely England Strikers XI
Dion Dublin is a regular by comparison

John Fashanu No concerns about "poor first touch" in those days
David Platt Briefly left sick bed to lead England line
Paul Stewart Won three caps, then sank through the ranks
Garry Birtles Doomed to failure unless Clough was the boss
David Armstrong Short-lived outbreak of bald fever in national team
David White One career downturn since single cap in 1983
Brian Stein Integral part of England's ill-fated "Luton system"
Peter Davenport Another Forest-England-Man-Utd-obscurity trip
Brian Deane Scared the hell out of New Zealand (twice)
Alan Sunderland Discreetly honoured on 1980 tour of Australia
Eric Gates Might have gelled with Paul Mariner — but didn't

A life in pictures

Jimmy Hill



1967 Coventry: Loses touch with grass roots of the game



1976 Saudi Arabia: Loses anxiety about bank overdraft



1988 BBC: Loses St George bow-tie to livid Scottish viewers



1982 Family wedding: Loses reputation as fashion consultant



1987 Fulham: Loses Paul Parker

Ask the experts

Why did the inflatable stadium die out?
The main reason inflatables went out of fashion was simply that they were too expensive. It's one thing putting up with a giant hamster clocking you on the head occasionally, but quite another when your view of the entire game is blocked by some loser waving a grinning fish in front of your face for 90 minutes.
Jeremy Bancroft, Slough

The craze for inflatables died out for one very simple reason. They were crap.
Granville, Doncaster

Who said the craze for inflatables had died out? There was a banana with the York City contingent at Enfield last Saturday — and it didn't deflate like the team did in the second half.
Jim Lindsay, Chesham

State of the nation

Spain

Population 40 million. Unlikely champions Atletico Aragon. In 1940 and 1941, were backed by a group of Francoist airmen who parachuted into the struggling Madrid club Atletico. In 1946 they became Atletico Madrid. National team stereotypes: Tough, skilful, committed, allergic to World Cups. Pioneer Roberto Martinez arrived at Wigan in July 1985 with his fellow-countrymen Isidro Diaz and Jesus Seba and has now played well over 100 games. "He is a legend (chairman Dave Whelan) is incredible, fantastic," Martinez said when he arrived. Which can't have hurt. Important import Chelsea's Albert Ferrer is England's first recruit from Spain's top flight, for decades Italy's only rival as the biggest importing league in Europe. Double-barrelled duo Antonio Donche Vercareel and Alexander Calvo-Garcia also tested the lower-division waters in 1996 with Hull City and Stockport. "The weather is very nice. The weather is very like home," said Antonio, possibly practising phrases from his language class. Most wanted: The Barcelona central defender Miguel Angel Nadal (right), linked last week with Newcastle, has

A-Z of British football

O

... is for Obviously, as featured at the start of every Dave Bassett sentence. Classic usage: "OBVIOUSLY for Scunthorpe. It would be a nice scalp to put Wimbledon on our bottoms." been touted as the linchpin for about half a dozen Premiership clubs, including Manchester United, who visit the Nou Camp on Wednesday. "I know that Newcastle are looking for my type of player," he said optimistically. Well, he is a foreigner on the wrong side of 30. Reverse sweep Spain has proved one of the countries where English talent has blossomed, through such stars as Terry Venables, John Toshack, Gary Linaker, Steve Archibald, ex-Dalian Atkinson and, umm, Jamie Pollock. Oh, please yourselves. Contribution to English football Don Revie was so impressed by Real Madrid that he changed Leeds's strip to all-white and devoted himself to winning as much as they did. Thanks lads. 1982 World Cup mid-fielder who would lead a World Cup Functions XI Roberto Lopez Ufaria

Refwatch

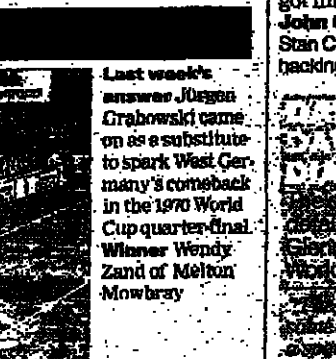
Alan Butler

Home town Sutton-in-Ashfield. Home town's other claims to fame: Scene of a Civil War skirmish; Cardinal Wolsey nearly died there. Occupation Senior police officer. Trade: Referee. Arms locked to his side like an Irish line dancer moving squally around the pitch. Saturday's highlight: Making Barnsley repeat the first-half kick-off to the dismay of an impatient Sunderland crowd. Brandishes cards in the manner of... One third of a traffic light illuminating the Stadium of Light's mist. The gaffer tapes. "Wimbledon looked more determined and won the fight." Arsene Wenger suggesting the reason behind Arsenal's Seahurst Park demise. "All the characteristics of our side were there." Joe Kinnear confirming the reason behind Arsenal's Seahurst Park demise. "I see that his name is Mr. Sharpe, and he was certainly very sharp indeed on this one." Dave Bassett who certainly had a dog of a day after linesman Sharpe cried foul and Steve Stone was sent off. "Last season we couldn't have got him to tie lace." John Gregory finds a positive in Stan Collymore's spending offer for hacking down Steve Harkness.

Cup of winners



Last week's answer Jürgen Grabowski came on as a substitute to spark West Germany's comeback in the 1990 World Cup quarter-final. Winner: Wendy Zand of Milton Mowbray



A wobbly picture but a straightforward question: who scored the goal in a Wembley ECWC tie featuring an English club? And for a bonus point, which South American World Cup star was on the opposing side? Post, fax or e-mail your answer to the address below to win your choice of this month's new issue from The Football Book Club (0171-581 1806 for a catalogue). Please include a phone number.

Clogger welcomes contributions. Write to The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. You can e-mail us at clogger@guardian.co.uk or fax us on 0171-713 4107.

Premiership

Wimbledon 1 Arsenal 0

Arsenal feel the strains

Arsenal lose two more from squad for Europe. Martin Thorpe reports

IT WOULD be too dramatic to say that the wheels have come off Arsenal's wagon but the wheel nuts are working loose, the tracking needs realigning and the spare looks a bit bald. Injuries, suspensions and a weak squad are beginning to deflate Arsene Wenger's aspirations. If the Double winners lose at home to Lens in the Champions League on Wednesday they will almost certainly go out of that competition which, following the Worthington Cup rout by Chelsea, will mean half their targets gone by November. That possibility was heightened at Seahurst Park by a hamstring injury sustained by Patrick Vieira which could sideline him for a month. His midfield partner Emmanuel Petit is already suspended for the Lens game, while a calf strain picked up by Dennis Bergkamp 36 minutes into Sat-



Jump start... Arsenal's Tony Adams gets airborne to deny the Wimbledon striker Marcus Gayle

Match stats

	Wim	Ars
Possession	45%	55%
Attempts on target	4	6
Attempts off target	5	3
Corners	4	3
Fouls	17	18
Offsides	3	1
Bookings	3	3
Sendings-off	0	0

urday's comeback after back and ankle problems, leaves the disintegrating Dutchman 60-60 for Wednesday.

On top of that, third-placed Arsenal's title ambitions received a nasty bruise from this defeat by Wimbledon. It was a typically defiant response from Joe Kinnear's combat troops to last week's mauling at Chelsea. And though victory was partly down to the poverty of Arsenal's attacking play, once the aforementioned players hobbled off, Wimbledon deserved their win for out-fighting the champions in most areas of the pitch.

The fact that the winning goal should have been disallowed for handball could not disguise Arsenal's shortcomings. Their goalscoring record in their past six games reads like a binary number: 1,1,1,0,0,0. It is not that Wenger has ignored the error messages, just that his clinical mind is programmed to seek value for money.

players, should have taken a leaf out of Kinnear's little black book in the summer and looked to Britain. If only the Swede could not disguise his short-comings. Their goalscoring record in their past six games reads like a binary number: 1,1,1,0,0,0. It is not that Wenger has ignored the error messages, just that his clinical mind is programmed to seek value for money.

Saturday's match was a bit of a bore all round. Arsenal pinged the passes about early on and looked quite dangerous. Nicolas Anelka forced Neil Sullivan to save with his legs and Lee Dixon hit the bar from 20 yards. But once Vieira and Bergkamp had departed, Arsenal started holding on to the ball too long, delaying passes and the spark was lost.

Wimbledon three times went close before the winner arrived 14 minutes from time. The consistently dangerous Michael Hughes, 280,000 from West Ham, Mr Wenger — did what Marc Overmars and Ray Parlour failed to do all afternoon and put in a decent cross from the by-line after cleverly twisting past Dixon.

The ball hit Robbie Earle's arm before Ekoku tapped it over the line and Tony Adams protested to the referee afterwards. But the old campaigner, who has been offered a year extension on his contract which runs out at the end of next season, has seen it all before — bad goals and Arsenal slumps. And he, like Wenger, will not be calling out the breakdown services just yet.

Middlesbrough 2 Coventry City 0

Ricard is perfect for Boro cocktail

Harry Pearson is treated to a blend of strength and speed

MIDDLESBROUGH'S front two, Hamilton Ricard and Brian Deane, are big men with a strong, steady, no-nonsense style. The Colombian's trademark manoeuvre is to receive the ball with his back to goal, flip it up and hook it over his head, and then spin and run after it. Deane's trick is simply to use his height to good effect. In combination with a masterful display of industry and intelligence from Andy Townsend in the centre of a midfield missing Paul Gascoigne and Robbie Mustoe, the Ricard-Deane pairing proved enough to see the home side through to a comfortable win.

The match improved as a result. Dean Gordon has been a constant attacking threat since Middlesbrough's left flank this season. On Saturday the former Crystal Palace man was well policed by the experienced Roland Nilsson, who constantly channelled him onto his weaker right foot. However the Swede could do nothing to prevent the 25-year-old's moment of glory. In the 66th minute Noel Whelan's headed clearance from Townsend's weak corner fell invitingly to the full-back 30 yards out. His ferocious shot skimmed into the corner of the net. Coventry mounted a fightback of sorts. Whelan's header forcing Mark Schwarzer to make his first save of the afternoon. But the visitors were handicapped by a lack of invention.

Derby County 0 West Ham United 2

Impey's hammer blow

Michael Walker

AGAINST a background of turbulent internal politics at Upton Park West Ham produced a near-perfect awayday display at Derby yesterday. A performance that combined resilient defence, intelligent and vivid midfield passing and some excellent finishing saw West Ham outclass a hapless Derby side to move into sixth place. However, while Harry Redknapp was understandably delighted at the beginning of this triumph, the West Ham manager had more serious thoughts about the worrying situation that led to West Ham selling Andrew Impey to Leicester City yesterday without Redknapp's permission. Impey will join the Midlands side for £1.5 million subject to a medical this morning. Redknapp's fury stems from the fact that this was not his decision and that he was

not informed of it until Saturday. Impey would have started yesterday and an understandably angry Redknapp said: "I'm disappointed because surely it's up to me as the manager who I sell. I haven't even spoken to Martin O'Neill but that's the way it's going in football. I've built a squad, I've wheeled and dealt, we're going along nicely — then suddenly I get a player sold under my nose. For me three points is the main concern and why not sell him tomorrow if we're going to sell him. But no, I was told he might get injured." The precedent is so disturbing for Redknapp because, as he said, "three months down the line it could be Rio Ferdinand next". There was, however, little sympathy or consolation in the words of West Ham's managing director Peter Storrie who said: "I have to balance the books and Harry knows that." Redknapp has no intention

of resigning over the matter — "Other people can resign," he said — but any hopes of retaining the European position this victory brought them can only be undermined by a shrinking squad, not to mention the context of this sale. In the circumstances, therefore, this win was all the more admirable and was even achieved without Ian Wright, injured on England duty last week. John Hartson stood in and scored after only six minutes when he calmly steered in a pass from Eyal Berkovic. It was not until 18 minutes from the end that Marc Keller delivered the second with a blistering drive from 18 yards after yet more good work by Berkovic, but the margin of West Ham's superiority was not reflected in the scoreline. It might have been different had Rory Delap converted Derby's best opportunity before Hartson's opener but once that was missed West Ham took over.

Rangers train their sights on McManaman

THE Spanish connection may have been loosened for now, but the Scottish link has been forged. Rangers yesterday staked their claim for Liverpool's Steve McManaman, who last week played down Real Madrid chances of securing him. David Murray, the Ibrox chairman, insists the offer is a realistic despite claims by McManaman's agents of a queue of 14 other clubs for the England forward when he becomes a free agent in the summer. Yet Murray, interviewed in Scotland on Sunday, admitted

the £30 million already spent by his coach Dick Advocaat, whose expensive team were dismantled 5-1 by Celtic yesterday, is over budget. "You have to decide whether you are in the race or not," he stressed. "Dick has a broader outlook than Walter Smith. You cannot compare with his European knowledge. Dick asked me about a budget, I told him, we've now exceeded it, but we respect each other." Crystal Palace's chairman Mark Goldberg has defended his club's transfer policy and the role of the head coach

Terry Venables. Palace have been at the centre of an FA probe into alleged missing transfer funds from the signing of Chinese internationals Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai and the Israeli David Amaleh, but Goldberg emphasised the First Division club had done everything above board. "The FA have confirmed there are no irregularities," he said. "In his (Venables') three months at Palace, we have purchased 13 players for under £5 million, we have sold seven for over £7 million and he has made a saving on salaries of over £600,000."



England blues

Italians come close in World Cup opener
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Blackburn in crisis

Hendry in frame to take over at Rovers

Ian Ross and Andy Wilson on the aftermath of Roy Hodgson's abrupt departure

THE former Blackburn Rovers captain Colin Hendry may be a surprise managerial candidate as the Lancashire club seek to regain stability after the acrimonious sacking of Roy Hodgson on Saturday.

Hodgson's 17-month spell in charge ended immediately after the 2-0 defeat by Southampton which sent Rovers to the bottom of the Premiership.

Although Blackburn's long-serving coach Tony Parkes will almost certainly

take over for his third stint as caretaker-manager in four years, there is support for Hendry inside the Ewood Park boardroom.

Hendry, 32, was sold to the Scottish Premier League leaders Rangers during the summer for £3.7 million. It was a controversial transfer and the central defender's move angered a section of the Blackburn support.

Yesterday Hendry was discussed when members of Rovers' board held talks with the club's wealthy benefactor Jack Walker.

He is fully aware of the consequences of knee-jerk responses in football, something which will not help the prospects of those experienced managers available for hire, notably Roy Evans, Ron Atkinson and Howard Kendall.

However, the mood in the dressing-room was for a quick appointment, judging by the initial reaction of Rovers' captain Tim Sherwood to Hodgson's abrupt departure.

"Roy spent half an hour in the dressing-room with us afterwards and I wasn't

aware of anything," said Sherwood. "It's not nice to be left out in the cold and not knowing what's going on. The sooner we all do, the better, because it doesn't matter who the manager is, we've got to get some results quickly."

There will not be any great sadness at Hodgson's departure, among either supporters or players though he is something of a media darling with his background in European football and his articulate views as a pundit on television and in newspapers.

In his regular column for a national daily last week he almost appeared to be getting his retaliation in first. He wrote: "It is a time for strong men... The manager and coaching staff are going to have to show a lot of support for their players while probably lacking the same support from those around them."

But Hodgson was never as popular in East Lancashire, even when Rovers were riding high in his early months at the helm. It was an open secret that Sherwood, in particular,

did not see eye to eye with him and the fact that he and Chris Sutton defied a club-imposed ban to comment on the sacking in newspaper columns yesterday was significant.

Both referred pointedly to problems with morale at the club. Sherwood claimed: "The team spirit is just not there any more."

Sutton added: "I do not have the same confidence that we can get out of this position as I did when we struggled two years ago. Something has to change."

It is irresistible to interpret that as an attack on the manager, possibly written before Saturday's defeat.

As the crowd's initially cheeky chants of "Hodgson for England" gave way to a chorus of boos and "what a waste of money" when Steve Basham scored Southampton's second goal late on, it would appear Walker agreed.

Yet the evidence of Saturday's match was confusing. The commitment of Sherwood, in addition to the majority of his team-mates, could not be faulted, and they enjoyed enough possession to have recorded a crushing win.

But Southampton's manager Dave Jones put his finger on Rovers' major problem when he pointed out

that his goalkeeping namesake, Paul, had only one real save to make, from a Nathan Blake header in the second half.

In addition Blackburn's defence, still struggling to recover from the loss of Hendry, looked shaky against Southampton's infrequent attacks.

It was pulled apart with alarming ease for the fourth-minute opening goal when Carlton Palmer's intelligent backheel from Stuart Ripley's through ball allowed Matthew Oakley to shrug off a weak challenge from Stéphane Henchoz and find the bottom corner.

First Ashes Test Australia v England

Butcher flings down the gauntlet

Mike Selvey in Brisbane

IF "great" is perhaps the most overworked adjective in sport, then let us not be churlish when it can be applied genuinely. Yesterday, in circumstances that would have tested any resolve, Mark Butcher cast off the demons that have flurried around his shoulders since he landed in Australia and played a great innings.

Batting with panache and confidence many believed had deserted him, the left-hander pumelled the bound-

quent fashion possible that this side are here for a scrap.

If Butcher's innings was the highlight of a compelling day, then there were vital contributions from Nasser Hussain, who made 59 in a bold continuation of his stunning form before he was caught behind off Michael Kasprowicz, from Graham Thorpe undefeated on 70, and Mark Ramprakash composed and unbeaten on 28.

England have learned to forge stands and there was one of 134 for the second wicket between Butcher and Hussain — including a delicious morning session that produced 125 from only 28 overs — another of 78 for the fourth between Butcher and Thorpe, and an unbeaten 59 for the fifth between Thorpe and Ramprakash.

Only Atherton, Glenn McGrath's victim for the 10th time in his last 14 Ashes innings (seven in the first innings and all but one of those in single figures), and Alec Stewart who, much to his chagrin, swept a full-toss from the leg-spinner Stuart MacGill unerringly to the only deep fielder on the legside, failed to contribute.

On a batting pitch to die for, England showed up the limitations of an Australian attack without Shane Warne. McGrath remains the only true class act but yesterday, just as he had in the opening Test in Birmingham last year, he failed to find a consistent rhythm. Thorpe's brace of pulls to the midwicket boundary that greeted McGrath and the second new ball told a tale of their own. He, of course, like MacArthur, will return.

But the back-up provided by Damien Fleming and Kasprowicz was modest, while MacGill was just awful.

But this was Butcher's day of days. Just consider what the poor fellow has been through these past three weeks. In Perth, he ducked into a second-ball bouncer which split open his right eyebrow, since when four first-class innings have brought him an aggregate of one fewer run, nine, than he had stitches.

Despite his heroic batting at Headingley against South Africa it would have been the simplest of things to ease him out. But in Cairns last week the England coach David Lloyd was affirming that Butcher had immense courage and character and that they had no intention of leaving him out.

It was a massive vote of confidence. "There had been times when I have had my doubts," Butcher confessed,

ously and straight, to the joyous moment when he drove MacGill through extra cover for his 16th and final boundary to bring up his second Test century, he did not back down. Boundaries spanned the compass, the best given the full face of the bat or flicked off his legs, some angled to third man, a few unintentionally, always taking advantage of Taylor's attacking fields.

Butcher had set his sights on a big innings and when he reached his hundred Thorpe, the old hand, reminded him of his responsibilities, telling him on the surface to enjoy

the moment but in essence instructing him to regroup and let the adrenalin settle. It was not to be, but it took a remarkable leaping, tumbling one-handed catch off his own bowling by Mark Waugh to remove him shortly before tea, by which time Taylor had begun to rain him in with

some thoughtfully restrictive fields.

His had been a chanceless innings, full of fine strokes and even finer judgment of line and length. Only once, when he had 92 and Kasprowicz sneaked one through to hit his stumps, did he appear vulnerable. But in

the split-second between the ball cannoning off his pad and striking the wicket, he heard and saw Darrell Hair's no-ball call. It was the first stroke of luck Butcher had enjoyed all tour and if he was unable to really capitalise on it, it would have taken a heart of stone to begrudge it.

try to make 116 glorious runs in 20 minutes shy of five hours and in a manner which rekindled the dashing assault of Bob Barber, another left-handed opener, in Sydney 32 years ago. Butcher thus joined an elite band — Maurice Leyland, Tony Greig and Ian Botham — who have made Test centuries for England at the Gabba.

It was a stunning response to Australia's first innings of 488 and one which would have taken Mark Taylor's team by surprise after Mike Atherton had been dismissed without scoring on Saturday evening. By the time the pyrotechnics and torrential rain of a Brisbane storm had curtailed the third day of this first Test by a few balls short of 15 overs, England had reached 299 for four, already consigning to the dustbin any Australian hopes of making them follow on, but more significantly making a statement in the most elo-

quent fashion possible that this side are here for a scrap.

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**Meet Prince Harry.
Should we know
he bruised his arm?**

10/01/00 34-

Meet Prince Harry. Should we know he bruised his arm?



YES, says Piers Morgan

Let's get one thing absolutely straight. This is not a debate about privacy. There is nothing private about an injury to an heir to the throne. It should, and always has been, an automatic matter of public interest when accidents have occurred involving senior members of the Royal Family.

But not, apparently, any more. No, the fact that Prince Harry got hurt playing rugby, and ends up in hospital having his arm put in bandages and a sling, is not reportable. "That was the ridiculous verdict of the Palace press lawyers last week — who incidentally downgraded Harry's injury to a 'minor graze' to

suit their argument. The first-known case of a graze needing such emergency treatment.

You can't publish it, they cried. It would be an invasion of Harry's privacy. What a load of nonsense. But not wishing to incur the wrath of the Palace particularly, I went along with this request until a letter emerged from my fax from Colleen Harris, deputy press secretary to Charles. It said she was confirmed what had happened to Harry but said that I couldn't tell my readers.

A further farcical conversation ensued with one of her colleagues, who declared that if Harry had actually broken his arm that would be reportable and in the public interest but since he had only bruised it, it wasn't. Confused? Yes, so was I.

I decided to publish the fact that Harry had had an accident but the Palace had banned us from saying anything about it. I thought it might stimulate debate, get an argument going over how far this press office should go in gagging the press.

Indeed, world war three erupted. Charles orders his chief lackey, Stephen Lamport, to write to me demanding a personal apology to

Harry for a story I didn't publish. And for good measure he complains about two other outrageous invasions of his privacy — one that he's good at football, the second that he's had a skinhead haircut. How either of these constitute an invasion of privacy is beyond me.

I refused to apologise, so Charles announced he was formally complaining to the Press Complaints Commission. Again, about a story we didn't publish. I watched these developments with mounting incredulity.

Ironically, the Sun ran a front-page story on Monday about the two boys performing a full Monty strip at their father's private 60th birthday party. No complaint was made. It probably came from the press office. Even more ironically, the Daily Star did publish every detail of Harry's injury and hasn't heard a dejected bird in other words, this complaint is not about privacy, but about the Palace wishing to prevent any debate on its ever-increasing control of the press.

This was, after all, the same press office that spends its entire life briefing journalists about Charles, Camilla and the two boys. One of its recent collaborations was on Penny Juno's book, masterfully sticking the knif into Diana. I know they leaked the nasty stuff because they've told me the same many times.

Did they stop and think whether this was distressing to the boys, that it might be slightly intrusive, that it might be invading their privacy in a deeply hurtful way? Did they feel, "They just sat back and watched Diana cop it from beyond the grave where she can't answer back."

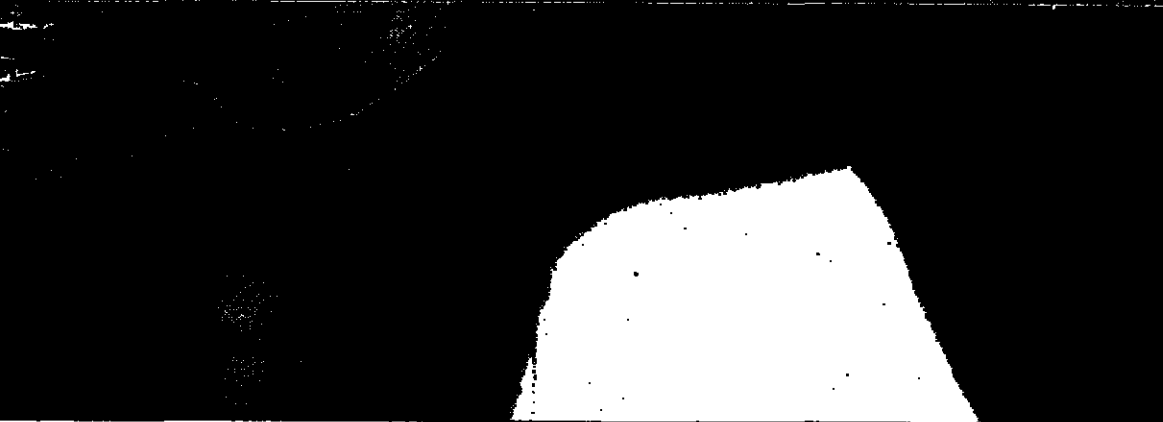
The disgusting hypocrisy stinks.



NO, says Roy Greenslade

I believe are important moments when British newspapers should hold aloft the banner of press freedom in defence of the public's right to know. If the censor reaches for the gag, as with Sybil, it is an editor's duty to do battle. In the face of threats to use the libel law to prevent the truth being published, as with Jonathan Aitken and Neil Hamilton, papers must be prepared to fight.

But what great issue of press freedom is raised by revealing that a 14-year-old prince has his arm in a



cast? Now, with the story of Harry's bruised arm, Morgan chooses to publish for another reason entirely. It concerned the prince's health, he said, and was therefore "of sufficient concern to warrant reporting."

Surely Morgan is having it both ways here, arguing that it's okay to publish stories that are harmless and also those "of sufficient concern." Following this logic, he can publish anything he likes. He contends that the Palace is trying to prevent "negative" coverage of the prince. Even if he is right, is it not entirely reasonable to shield teenage schoolboys from criticism? After all, that's why there is a code: to protect the young from undue publicity over their youthful indiscretions.

But these three stories don't even fall into the "negative" category. They are all examples of a typical boy's schoolboy experiences and, as such, they should be allowed to occur in private. Readers don't need to know the prince's whereabouts to do so, and they aren't clamouring to do so. Morgan's other charge is that the Palace is inconsistent in its dealings

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City of words

John Ryle

No relief from the disasters of war

This is the season of charity, when appeals from aid agencies fall thick and fast on the ear, and conscientious citizens try to balance their well-being against the suffering of those in less fortunate circumstances. Confronted with images of desolation from the disaster zone, we experience moral conflict — pity and helplessness.

What can be done to prevent this suffering? And who should do it? Should we give money to emergency appeals that try to get food to the starving? Should we do it year after year? Are these operations effective? Is it more important to work towards a world where such disasters happen less?

And how do you do that? The answer depends on your understanding of history and politics. It also depends on the kind of disaster you are talking about. The earthquake that hit the east coast of the United States last year — the hurricane in Honduras and Nicaragua, the famine in Sudan — illustrate the difference clearly. The floods in Central America are a sudden, natural disaster nothing could have prevented them. They affected poor countries without the resources to cope. Military logistics from western nations and medical aid organisations saved lives and began reconstruction. After a slow start, the operation has been carried out with relative efficiency.

The famine in Sudan, on the other hand, is the result of a long-running political crisis. Too much war on top of too little rain. Years of conflict have driven the inhabitants of parts of southern Sudan to the edge. There's been large-scale displacement of people and loss of crops and livestock to raiders. In Southern Sudan in peacetime, a drought or flood is something people can cope with. In wartime it may be the last straw. The same is true in Somalia, where famine is currently a threat. And in Angola too — but there no one can be sure, because large areas of the country are inaccessible to aid workers.

Most disasters are like this: a mix of war, displacement, hunger and ignorance that aid workers call a "complex emergency". Aid operations in these situations are much more expensive, less efficient, and politically more problematic than dealing with a hurricane. To feed the hungry and treat the sick in such circumstances is to become part of the war economy.

The price aid agencies pay for access to needy populations is collaboration with governments or rebel forces. The first concern of these local powers is probably not the well-being of the people. It is their own survival. In Somalia, for example, local militias operate protection rackets that force aid agencies to employ



David Liddiment, the director of programmes for ITV, is taking on New Labour control techniques with gusto. Angry at what he sees as excessively leaky colleagues, he has sent out a stern letter to each of the ITV companies saying that they must not speak to any member of the press without first passing it with central control — that is, ITV's own press office in London. The very idea has brought snorts of derision from the companies themselves.

● This is almost too painful to relate but in the wake of the coverage earlier this week of Chris Denning, the former Radio 1 DJ on trial for running a paedophile ring in Prague, there seems a rather pertinent comment by John Peel in *The Nation's* review of Simon Garfield's book on the station.

"Denning lost his job because he was too busy with his own life to do his job properly," he said — and at the time this seemed rather magnificent but given his subsequent history it was not quite so wonderful — he said, "God I felt great this morning, I woke up feeling like a 16-year-old boy. But where do you find a 16-year-old boy?"

● The media bunker is stocked, dunque, not even a bit of it, he said. "Will you please leave." "Oh, sorry mate," said the photographer, "I thought it was a public footpath." He already had his photo taken from goodness knows how far away — he was going for a close up. I didn't turn round, even when he called out my name repeatedly, so I never even saw the man, but a picture of my face was in the next day's *tabloids*. The story with it was to the effect that despite having caused such distress to the royal family I was enjoying a walk in the countryside, laughing and joking with my husband. The thunderous expression on my face hardly matched the story, but no matter.

It's interesting to realise how ghastly one can look when one has no idea anyone is watching and it explains a lot about why Camilla Parker Bowles so often looks like a battleaxe in photographs. In reality she is very pretty, but nine times out of 10 she is photographed with a long and beautifully unwrinkled face.

The Daily Express went on to give my complete address — another brilliant breach of every code ever written. A fellow journalist told me that he had done the same once or twice in his career when he secretly hoped in his mind that he would sort out a particularly unrepentant criminal. Later that week my local paper went one step further and, with the address, told readers you'd never think she's just about to release a book that has caused so much distress to the Royals.

● The media diary apologises to James Brown, the editor of GQ, for our erroneous story in last week's column that he had bought up six copies of the Observer's Power 300 because he appeared in it. James has told us that no such thing took place and Nicholas Coleridge, far from being a rival, is a respected colleague. Rest assured, James, our source for that story has been shot.

For the last month, **Penny Junor** has been public enemy number one. Here, writing for the first time, she takes on the media that hounded her and branded her "vile" and "wicked" for writing her book *Charles: Victim or Villain?*

The biter bit

I was sitting at my desk, looking out of the window while speaking on the telephone, when suddenly I noticed the glint of glass in the hedge that bordered the road. A moment later I saw a hand clutch at the wicker fence and realised that the glass was part of a monstrously long lens and the photographer, building long lens and holding himself up into position to take pictures inside my garden.

It was half-term and my 12-year-old son was kicking a football about on the lawn with a friend, and was snappet.

This is a flagrant breach of the new Press Complaints Commission Code of Conduct, down up in the wake of Princess Diana's death. "The use of long lens photography," it says, "to take pictures of people in private places without their consent is unacceptable."

That afternoon I took my dog for a walk across the fields at the back of the house. Aware that these were sheep conditions, I took my husband too, and kept well away from any public path or road. I was ahead of him when he suddenly said: "Don't look round." He had heard a noise behind him and he looked round to see a long lens pointed at him. "This is private property," he said. "Will you please leave."

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to have the tables turned was a very sobering experience. I was once an investigative reporter on the Channel 4 consumer programme *What's It Worth*, and I knocked on people's doors with cameras rolling and asked them tough questions — but only when I believed they were common or crooks of some sort. I didn't believe I was either, and yet I had television crews, photographers and newspaper reporters camped outside my house, and they refused to go away. I had woken up on that Sunday morning four weeks ago to find myself on the front page of every newspaper.

My book, *Charles: Victim or Villain?*, was being serialised in the Mail On Sunday, but for all the secrecy that had surrounded its production, the rest of Fleet Street was ready and waiting. I had known my book might cause a stir, but I wasn't expecting this.

I was turning the story of the royal non-fiction into a novel, and I was being accused of it. I had been widely quoted about the Prince of Wales and his relationship with Camilla. I was being accused of lying. I was being accused of lying. I was being accused of lying.

What I had not bargained for was the ferocious onslaught from the *tabloids* that branded me "vile", "villainous", "cruel", "spiteful" and "wicked", and turned me into the most hated woman in Britain. There were calls to ban this "evil" book, this "treasonous tome", this "misleading" attack on a woman who is no longer alive to answer back, this heartless blow to the young prince who had already suffered so much. No one had read the book, or course. When they were saying all this, it wasn't published until November 9 — but when have the red-top *tabloids* ever allowed the facts to get in the way of a good piece of prejudice?

The result was that every major newspaper, radio and television station in Britain, and some from further afield, wanted me to say something. But for contractual reasons, I could say nothing until the book was published. I had taken the precaution of being away for the Saturday night, and throughout Sunday neighbours kept me informed about the squatter camp on the doorstep. By the time I came home after dark, only two cars were left. My answering machine had so

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Anatomy of a royal row

October 25 Mail on Sunday runs first extract of Penny Junor's book — *Charles: Victim or Villain?*. She claims that Diana was unfairly branded "vile" and "wicked" for writing her book *Charles: Victim or Villain?*. She justifies that she did this on behalf of the children is "cringe-making," says astrologer Penny Thornton.

November 9 Mirror quotes more "Diana friends" attacking Junor. "The justification that she did this on behalf of the children is cringe-making," says astrologer Penny Thornton.

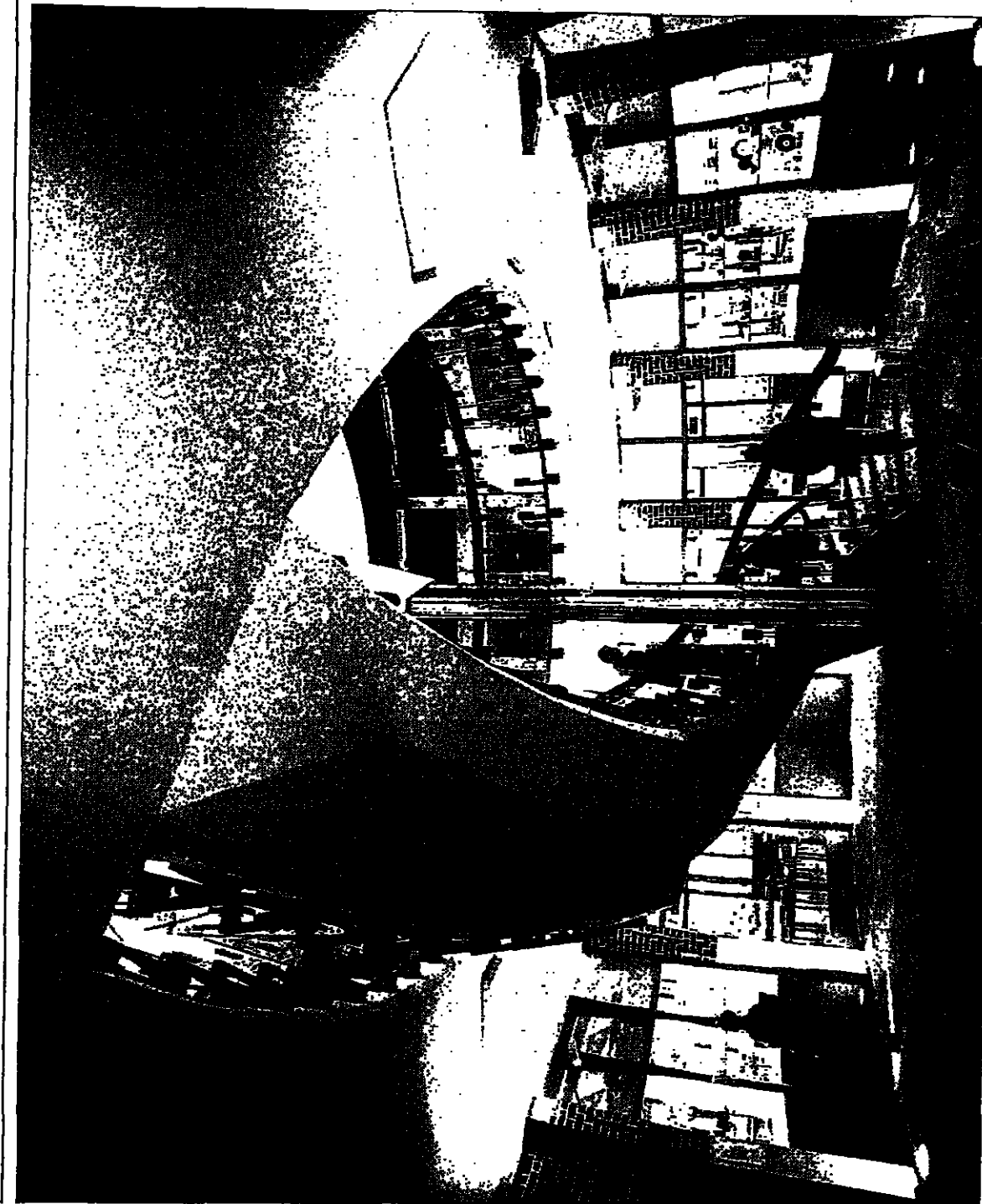
November 10 Talk Radio broadcaster James Whitham attacks Junor for writing the book and asks her if she will be donating the proceeds to charity. "I do this for a living. I am a writer. I have children to feed," Junor says. "Consistently interrupted, she gives up leaving the studio."

October 27 Mirror tracks Junor down to her home. "[She] looked at ease yesterday as she walked in fields behind her cottage near Malmebury, Wiltshire," the paper said. One "onlooker" is quoted as saying: "She appeared to be so relaxed you'd never think she's just about to release a book that has caused so much distress to the Royals."

November 1 Sunday People describes Junor as a "villain".



Arts Architecture



How would you extend a loved local museum? Add a loft and a greenhouse. Jonathan Glancey explores the new wing at London's Geffrye Museum

Shoreditch belle

The Prince of Wales likes it, though it's the work of an architect who is more of the architectural than the classical tendency. The extension to the delightful Geffrye Museum in London's formerly seedy, but now fashionable, Shoreditch has proved to be one of the most thoughtful, yet potentially least likely, architectural balancing acts performed in Britain in recent years. Why? Because this graceful and surprisingly cosy horseshoe-shaped gallery is the work of Braunschweig Architects, better known for bombastic, pushy, live-wire designs for bars and cafés in Glasgow and Tokyo and the gymnasium profile of the Museum of Popular Music in Sheffield, a swaggering, stainless-steel shocker.

It comes as a welcome surprise to walk out of the old Geffrye Museum, a row of homely, early 18th-century almshouses into this early 21st-century building. To understand how deftly Braunschweig Architects has handled the transition from the old to the new, it's important to get a feel for the museum. For those who know and love it, the Geffrye has always been one of those restful bywaters in the sort of street that seemed destined to remain unloved and unfashionable. The almshouses were bought by the erstwhile London County Council in 1911 and turned, on the eve of the first world war, into a museum of domestic hardware — locks, bolts, decorative ironwork — and middle-class interiors. The Geffrye was a quiet place to while away a rainy Sunday afternoon. It had something of the ageless air of other semi-secret London museums and galleries, before they became fashionable in the nineties: the Saatchi in Lincoln Inn Fields, the Horniman in "Nise Hill", the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

No more than 40,000 a people came this way each year, until about seven years ago when the numbers began to rise. Last year, the Geffrye had 60,000 visitors. Expect the numbers to double. Entrance is free. The museum also had (and retains) the great virtue of simplicity. The room-sets of historic London interiors were ranged along one side of a single corridor and that was that. No tricks, no gimmicks, no fancy café seating and ambitious salads.

That corridor now opens into the Braunschweig extension. The transition is effortless. The comfortable certainty of the old brick buildings and that straight corridor give way to a light greenhouse of a building. From this structure, two brick warehouses with pitched roofs and chimneys plunge into the Geffrye. These two gabled workshops they have been looking at from the self-justifying building. They curve around the central light well and meet at the back: a horseshoe. Inside the horseshoe and under a gentle wash of daylight is a sweep of new room-sets that takes the museum's collection up to the present.

A clever horseshoe extension combines tradition and novelty
PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARBLES

son day. It's almost funny to chuck over the chic, minimalist "loft-style" design when the real thing is still being built and fitted out in the newly expensive streets immediately to the south and west of the museum. But since the pundits are already predicting the end of the loft, perhaps it's right that this 1990s ad should have its own museum.

The horseshoe plan guides visitors gently back into the almshouses and so back in history if they want to, or else out into the garden and its noble plane trees to the bookshop. The bookshop is designed and fitted out to a notably high standard. It is much more like an old-fashioned library or one of those deliciously smart shops along the streets of Rome or Florence that sell anything from books to scent. It makes you feel intelligent. No dumbering down here.

A dragon-like stair leads down from the core of the central light well to education rooms, a temporary gallery, classrooms and the garden below. These all share the cosiness of the principal gallery floor. This feeling is enhanced by the solidity of the retaining walls and by the very gentle ventilation. Air-conditioned museums have a tendency to feel lifeless and uncomfortable. Here, the architects have got away with the insect hit of all-conditioning.

The whole point of this new building is to make connections: between interior and exterior, galleries and garden, London's past and present, popular taste and culture. Nigel Coates and his team have made these connections with evident skill. Coates was commissioned, rather than a more conventional firm of conservation-minded architects, because the Geffrye wanted to raise its profile. It wanted a highly distinctive new building and a team of designers who would understand how to walk the tightrope between tradition and novelty. The streetwise gang that has brought us the Museum of Popular Music has managed to please such apparently polar opposite tastes as those of the Prince of Wales and cool young town designers with difficult shoes and important laurels.

This unlikely extension — a small and cheapish building (£5.3 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Corporation of London, EC and private donors) — is far more than the sum of its parts. It is a meeting ground for those who might never normally see eye-to-eye on matters architectural or even museological. It proves how British architects can play with traditional forms and materials without resorting to safe reproduction or cheesy pastiche. It shows how a distinctive building can be calm, and how popular taste can be reconciled with ideas about design and architecture that are, all too often, incompatible. This is architecture as dialogue or conversation. An ace new museum with quite a nice row of old almshouses attached.

ple gable ends appear to converge, one on either side of a glazed light well capped with a filigree steel roof. The greenhouse is both a café overlooking the museum's newly sprouting historic London gardens and a junction box connecting old and new structures. It performs its role as a breathing space brilliantly. All museums need this kind of punctuation in their plans: it helps to prevent the onset of the dreaded "museum fatigue", a condition in which ankles begin to ache and concentration flags. Reinforced with tea and cakes, visitors to the Geffrye plunge on into the Braunschweig extension. They quickly realise that these two gabled workshops they have been looking at from the self-justifying building. They curve around the central light well and meet at the back: a horseshoe.

Inside the horseshoe and under a gentle wash of daylight is a sweep of new room-sets that takes the museum's collection up to the present.

A dragonlike stair spirals down from the core of the central light well

Women

The age of dissent

Michelle Hanson



Hard lessons

Last year, Rosemary left her education. She was 17, had made redundant. But what had she got out of when she did. According to my friend Mr. X, higher education is going down the drain. Mr. X teaches in an art college where there are too many pupils, too few staff and a management on a different planet. Naturally, everyone was grumbling so Rosemary had to start a survey to find out what was going on down there among the staff. Management read the survey and produced a booklet (more thousands of pounds) which recommended that the staff should "take the job" and "specialise consultants" should be employed to "recommence the most appropriate methods of face-to-face communications".

"Why didn't they just ask me?" shouted Mr. X. "I'd have told them. Management are more money and less brilliant! But he can't get near them. Management are often elusive young creatures."

Meanwhile Rosemary's old college recently offered her some part-time work. It was really her old job back disguised as seasonal leaching, for a quarter of her original pay. She turned them down. She has another job now where people speak proper English. But, sadly, she felt she may have been discarded because of her age. Old means experience, which means expensive, but management speak is the perfect way to get rid of the elderly. Faced with a wall of incomprehensible verbal crap, they may retire in despair.

But Mr. X is hanging on and learning to cope. It isn't easy. He must grade without marking, spread himself thinly among the horde of students and try not to punch management. To keep himself from going completely nuts, he collects the new phrases "we've got some more", "generic models of respiration and delivery". Throatbite the staff. Increased student awareness of ethics clearly, but these? Any suggestions?



PHOTOGRAPH: ADVERTISING ARCHIVES, PONA HANSON

What is it with women and cats? Joan Smith examines claws and effect

Pussies galore

Single women and cats go together, as everyone from novelists to pet food manufacturers is aware. Cats provide consolation to women of a certain age, the kind of spiritual heroism to be found in an Anita Broome novel, creating a bond of affection so close that their owners sometimes skip on their own

meals to feed the favoured moggie. This, at least, is one of the myths about women and cats, and it's one advertising agencies in Britain are keen to demolish. This is not because they resent stereotypes but because the elderly single woman or widow traditionally associated with cats — and who undoubtedly exists, through

success, as sales figures show — is a new source of profit. Their advertisers target a group of cat owners with relatively high disposable incomes, glamorous young women who are shown muzzling their pussies in an atmosphere redolent of luxury.

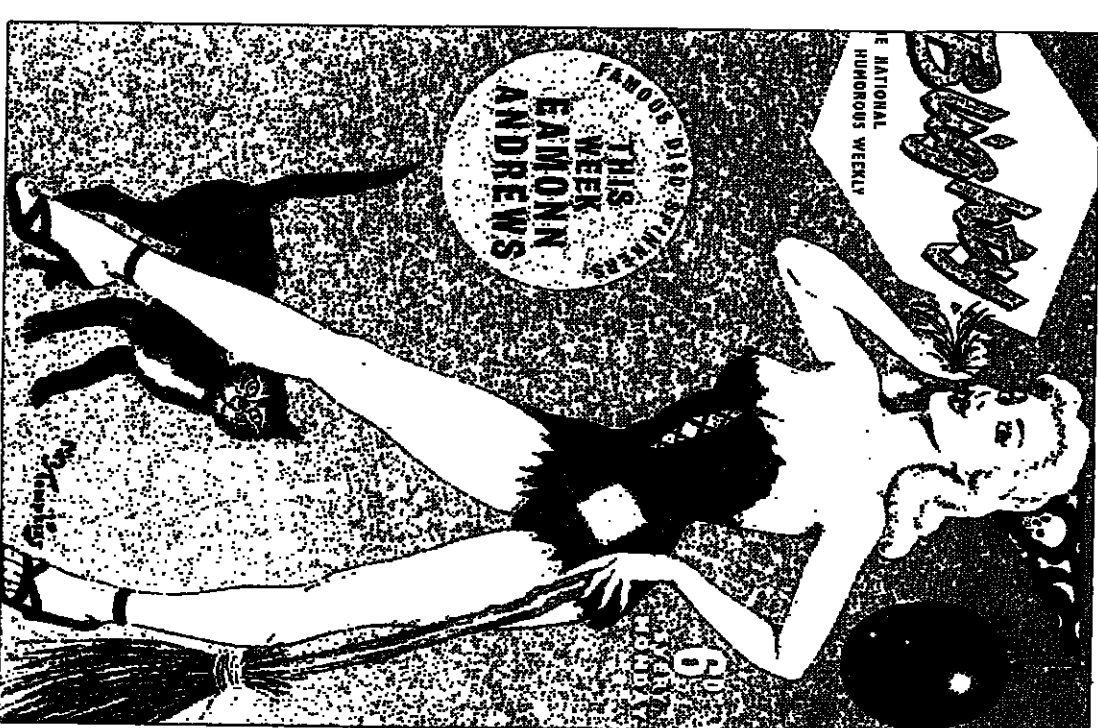
Forget this containing, studiously lumped cheap meat and gristle, not to mention the perennial search for the missing cat opener. These foods come in trays with pet-back lids, as well as in minute quantities that reflect their status as treats. It is now possible to feed your cat on salmon flakes in lobster jelly or a delicate turkey pate which would not look out of place on a smart dinner table. This development — they eat what we eat, as baby substitutes or to replace a

or very nearly — is a neat reworking of the myth of the eccentric old woman who buys chicken for her cats while she herself eats on tinned cat food. Appropriately enough, these new cat foods cost, pound for pound, quite a lot more than meat prepared for human consumption.

At a time when cats have overtaken dogs as the pet of choice in Britain, probably reflecting an increasing urban lifestyle, any or all of these images of the typical cat owner are likely to be wrong. Seven-and-a-half million cats do not mean an equal number of feline old ladies, or indeed millions of broken-hearted youngsters who have acquired cats as baby substitutes or to replace a

dear departed lover. It is true that one of my friends when her marriage broke up after 17 years, took only a couple of months to get a cat. But her reasons were pragmatic: her husband disliked cats and introducing a cat into a household that includes a hostile adult is no small undertaking. Admittedly she now claims she got the best of the bargain, appreciating the animal's lavish displays of affection and gratitude for the raw kangaroo meat that is the staple diet of many cats in Australia.

The association between women and cats is so long-standing that it is possible to draw several inferences from it. Artists as various as Hogarth and Pierre-Edouard included cats in



them. Freud developed his theory of narcissism after observing the behaviour of a female cat, while the supposed association between witches and cats in the Middle Ages led to the persecution of thousands of unfortunate animals as well as their owners. Black cats especially were regarded as witches' familiars, not just companions but expressions of women's bestial, therefore lewd, natures. In Western art, cats often appear in portraits of courtesans, most famously in Manet's shocking painting of Olympia, where there is an obvious association between the sexuality of the reclining nude and the black cat men her openly slumped foot.

The message from the makers of Shiba cat food is that the woman who pampers herself with edible delicacies, who stocks up on roast chickens at the deli counter of her local supermarket, naturally wants to do the same for her cat. At one level, this is just another example of contemporary anthropomorphism, but it also plays on ancient notions of latent excess and sensuality. I can't help wondering whether anyone at Marm's realised when they were designing up new brand names, that the Queen of Shiba has been suggested as the recipient of the Song of Solomon, one of the most erotic passages in the Old Testament. Did I hear someone mention the word pussy? Then there's 'early', the pejorative epithet applied to a certain kind of female behaviour. Women are supposed to get into cat-fights over boyfriends or other women — one popular theory links cats and lesbians — but all these verbal associations reveal a persistent tendency to deride women in animal terms. Instinctual and emotional, certainly less rational, than men, although men are more often associated with logic than cats, it is women who are derided as 'bitchy'.

But is there any truth in the notion that women admire cats more than men? Anecdotal evidence, as well as my own experience, would suggest that women are more likely to have cats, supports the case — and Marm would hardly target affluent female pet owners if research suggested the market were insignificant. There are plenty of exceptions, male artists who like to work in the presence of cat and female anthropologists who reveal a persistent tendency to deride women in animal terms.



Portrait days... Far left, one of the new breed of cat food ads. Left, Charlie proving her heart belongs to Humphrey. Below, the familiar image of the witch with her familiar.

Your dream home has turned into a nightmare. What do building societies do when domestic violence drives you out asks Diane Taylor

In 1998, Sarah fell in love with Tom (not their real names). She was 27, he was irresistible. Before she knew it, she had moved into a rented flat with him. Five years on, they had a couple of kids.

In 1998, they took their commitment further, got a joint mortgage and bought their dream home. But by 1998 things had gone horribly wrong and after repeated beatings, Sarah knew that if she wanted a future, she had to take the children and flee.

She never dreamed her mortgage lender, the Halifax, would compound her trouble. In fact, once Sarah started to challenge him, she found they didn't have a policy on domestic violence and that the position of her name on the mortgage papers after Tom's death made it perfectly legal for him to discriminate against her.

Calls to other major lenders confirmed that the Halifax is not alone. The Council of Mortgage Lenders in fact knows of no high street lender that has a policy on domestic violence, despite the fact that agencies who work in the field estimate at least one woman in 10 will experience it in her lifetime, and within the Halifax, of all lenders, a turnover of billions.

Making the move from Tom took Sarah a long time, because she had to find a house that was big enough for emergency housing from her local council because she had a joint mortgage and therefore was not homeless; because she had to pay half the mortgage; she couldn't afford to buy or rent another home.

"At first, me and the children stayed," she explains. "I kept down stairs on the sofa while Tom had the bedroom. But things got worse. He took exception to the fact that I had a mind of my own. He beat me, because he couldn't control me."

In June, Sarah sought refuge in the home of a friend. She contacted the Halifax, to inform them of her changed and traumatic circumstances, and to ask for a temporary break in payments. She also asked them to send copies of payments due and other correspondence to her new address to avoid having to get the information from Tom, who was still living in the house and getting all the mail from the Halifax.

But requests were turned down. "Fearing pickpocket on the courage to walk away," Sarah says now, "I never

imagined the Halifax would direct me back into the path of the man from whom I had just escaped."

At a meeting with her branch manager, Sarah was told there was no domestic violence policy; she was given no breathing space on payments and no advice on what to do if Tom refused to cooperate in selling the house or in handing over her half of the company's share options. As the first name on the mortgage, all power lay with him.

"I was told the building society computers were only programmed to send out letters to the first name on a joint mortgage and so would not be able to send things to me too. When I asked how I would know how much to pay when the interest rate changed, I was told to consult a national newspaper — or ask my ex-partner." Only after intervention from Sarah's solicitor did the Halifax agree to give her a three-month breathing space so she could pay her mortgage at a reduced rate and cover the cost of paying rent.

"I never realised how much the position of my name on a piece of paper could affect my life," she says now. What makes it worse is that Sarah's name does appear first on some mortgage application documents because she was the major wage earner when they got the mortgage. By the time the firms went through, however, the names had been switched to Mr and Mrs picking up the mortgage. Nobody had explained to Sarah the significance of this.

"If I'd realised the share option money that was rightfully mine, I would have had some cash behind me which could have helped me leave and get new accommodation. Instead I pay my share of the mortgage and I get everything. Mortgage lenders have everything in place to help him and men in general. It's utterly wrong."

Legal advice service Rights Of Women says the problem is breakdown of relationships have to sort out their mortgage. For lenders, it's simply a business proposition. When everything else in your life is falling apart, the one thing you want to hang on to is the roof over your head. Building societies don't seem to realise how vulnerable women are in this situation and it doesn't look as if they're going to change."

When asked for a statement, a Halifax spokesman insisted they had been "very sympathetic" to Sarah. In his statement, he said: "We are happy to write to her at her correspondence address and 'We would be happy to refer her to her local housing authority rather than to her plight. The Equal Opportunities Commission has received many complaints from joint mortgagees and share options. But the law is complex and a solicitor would advise lenders are not doing anything illegal by sending all cash and correspondence to the first name on the form. The only practical way around the situation is for women to get their name placed first on the mortgage form and to push hard for a freeze on payments if domestic disaster strikes."

50 years of Scott Trust
Back on the men

B
Social work in stabbing